FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-151
Friday
5 August 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-151 *5 August 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 August Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

West Bank Figures Decry Dismissal of Employees *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PLO's Abu Sharif on 'Uprising,' Deportations *[WAKH]* 3
Al-Quds Radio: Call No 23 Outlines 'Activities' 3

OPEC Affairs

Nigeria's Lukman on Danger of Overproduction *[KUNA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

2,000 Opposition Troops 'Ready To Return' Home *[Libreville Africa No 1]* 5
Habre Receives OAU Secretary General Oumarou 5

Egypt

Cairo Arranging Murphy-Palestinians Meeting 5
Jordan-Style Measures for Gaza Said Under Study *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Aug]* 5
'Abd al-Majid Message for 'Arafat on Jordan Move 6
AL-AHRAM Cited on Jordan's West Bank Measures 6
Israel Protests Statement by Butrus Ghali *[AL-WAFD 1 Aug]* 6
Ghali Interviewed on Gulf, Mideast Issues *[Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 3 Aug]* 6
Senate Decison on U.S. Embassy in Israel Viewed 7
Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Mubarak 7
Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 3 Aug 7
Sudan's Al-Mirghani on Talks With Mubarak, Chad 8
Communication Talks With Saudi Arabia Conclude 8
Sidqi Receives Australian Minister Baker 8
Power Plant Talks Conclude 8
Security Council Urged To Meet on Gulf War 9
Security 'Detention Campaigns' Reported *[AL-SHA'B 2 Aug]* 9
Islamic Pharmaceuticals Company Advertisement *[AL-WAFD 1 Aug]* 9
Briefs 10
Outgoing Italian Ambassador 10
CSSR Loan 10
Debts to Norway, Japan 10

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Tunisia's Ben Ali 10
Ownership of Factories Transferred to Workers 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Attack Norwegian Tanker in Gulf *[AFP]* 11

Bahrain

Somali Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Amir 11
Concludes Visit 11

Qatar

Envoy to France on Relations With USSR, PRC *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 11

Saudi Arabia

Interior Ministry Orders Pilgrims To Leave 11
AL-YAWM Assails Iranian 'Contradictions' of 598 *[1 Aug]* 12

United Arab Emirates

Decision Not To Attack Ships Called 'Positive' *[AL-BAYAN 1 Aug]* 13

IRAQ

Official Comments on Attack on Norwegian Ship 14
Saudi Information Minister Arrives in Baghdad 14
Delivers King's Message *[SPA]* 14
Tariq 'Aziz Meets UN Ambassadors in New York 14
Sees India's Rao, Vernon Walters 14
Sa'dun Hammadi Receives USSR, French Envoys 14
Acting Minister of Health Appointed 1 Aug 15
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 15
Communique No 3,284 15
Denial of CW Charge Reiterated 15
AL-QADISIYAH Cited on 'Vigilant' Armed Forces 15

ISRAEL

Reportage on Reactions to Jordanian Decisions 16
'Dual Loyalties' Discussed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Aug]* 16
Tehiya Annexation Plan Rejected 17
Shamir's Office Cited 17
'PLO Option' Viewed 17
Palestinians Comment 17
West Bank Employees Interviewed 18
Government-in-Exile Sought *[AL-QUDS 4 Aug]* 19
New Jordanian Cabinet Rumored *[AL-SHA'B 4 Aug]* 19
Jordan's 'Conquest' Undone 19
No Funds for Salary Supplements 20
'Moment of Truth' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Aug]* 20
Possible Uprising in Jordan *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 5 Aug]* 20
Rabin Meets 'Prominent Arab Figures' in Territories 21
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 21
Youth Wounded in Al-Shati' 21
Curfew Imposed on Al-Burayj 21
Gaza Resident Arrested *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Aug]* 21
Weapons Caches Uncovered in Local Arab Villages 21
Shahal Fears 'Very Serious' Change in U.S. Policy 21

Murphy's Upcoming Trip to Region Reviewed *[AL-SHA'B 3 Aug]* 21
AL-NAHAR Comments *[4 Aug]* 22
Shamir Congratulates Dukakis for Party Nomination 22
Moscow Delegation Begins Work From Dutch Embassy *[MA'ARIV 2 Aug]* 22
Warned on 'Unseemly' Profile *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Aug]* 23
First Meeting With Soviets Held *[MA'ARIV 4 Aug]* 23
Foreign Ministry 'Furious' Over Flights to RSA *[HA'ARETZ 4 Aug]* 23
Change Seen in Attitude Toward South Africa *[DAVAR 5 Aug]* 24
Sharon Rejects Permanent Trade Attache for Poland *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Aug]* 24
Peru Thanked for Foiling Abu Nidal Attack 24
'Secret' Poll Shows Openness to Talks With PLO *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Aug]* 24
Commander Says Syria Preparing for War 25
IDF Using New Measures To Fight Chemical Warfare 25
Rabin Rejects Subordination of Civil Administration *[HA'ARETZ 4 Aug]* 25
Group Formed To Protect Disarmed Jewish Settlers *['AL HAMISHMAR 3 Aug]* 26
Leaflets Urge IDF Soldiers To Desert *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Aug]* 26
Briefs 26
Soviet 'Dropout' Rate 26
Heroin Seized 26

JORDAN

Decision Made To Remove Martial Law Regulations *[INA]* 27
Sources 'Expected' Cancellation *[AL-DUSTUR 5 Aug]* 27
Reported Agreement To Transfer Duties to PLO *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 3 Aug]* 27
Cabinet Retires Civil Servants in West Bank 27
Al-Rifa'i, PLO Representative Confer in Amman 27
Al-Khasawinah on Motives Behind West Bank Move *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 Aug]* 28
King Telephones Al-Asad, Saddam Husayn 28
Papers Comment on West Bank Disengagement 28
Beirut Press Criticized *[AL-RA'Y 30 Jul]* 28
TIMES: Move 'Unambiguous' *[1 Aug]* 29
Israeli, U.S. Reaction Viewed *[AL-DUSTUR 4 Aug]* 29
'Four Possibilities' After Dissolution of House *[AL-DUSTUR 31 Jul]* 30

LEBANON

Hostage Release Expected 'Without Conditions' *[VONR]* 31
Lebanese Forces Comment on Murphy's Visit *[RFL]* 31
Al-Huss Interviewed on Election Prospects *[London AL-MAJALLAH 4-10 Aug]* 31
Israeli Warplanes Stage 'Mock Raids' Over Sidon 32
'Raid' Area East of Sidon *[VOM]* 32
Israeli Raids 'Mock' *[RFL]* 32
'Extremists' Planning Attacks Against SLA *[VOL]* 32
Rocket Hits Syrian Post in West Beirut; Wounds 6 *[VOL]* 33
9 February Group Claims Blast *[RFL]* 33

SYRIA

Murphy Arrives in Damascus, Meets Al-Shar' 34
Defense Minister Talas on Beirut Hostages *[Hamburg STERN 4 Aug]* 34
Talas Says Statement 'Distorted' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
Talas Addresses Military Graduates 3 Aug 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

USSR's Shevardnadze Arrives on Working Visit 36
Najibullah Speaks to Transportation Workers 36
Spokesman Criticizes Ziaul Haq's Interference 37

Offensive Against Mujahidin Around Kabul Fails *[Islamabad]* 38
Bomb Blast Kills 4 in Kabul Market 38
19 Surface-to-Surface Missiles Captured in Kabul 38
Mujahidin Attack Military Convoy in Nangarhar *[Islamabad]* 38

India

Gandhi Accuses LTTE of Retracting Promises 38
Gandhi Rules Out Leniency to Terrorist Supporters 38
'Terrorists' Kill 7 Persons in Faridkot Area 39
Rao Meets With Iraqi, Iranian Foreign Ministers 39

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 39
Montazeri Sends Condolences on Pakistani Cleric 40
Iraq Withdraws Precondition for Direct Talks 40
Further on Iraqi Move 40
Commentary on Developments at UN 41
Khomeyni Writes Note to Bakhtaran Air Unit 41
Further Reportage on Visit of Italian Minister 41
Meets With Musavi 41
Trade Protocol Signed 41
Concludes Visit, Departs 4 Aug 42
Mojahedin-e Khalq Requests Iraqi CW Attacks 42
Mojahedin Commander Surrenders, Details Tactics 42
Mojahedin-e Khalq Member Executed in Ilam 43
Gendarmerie Arrest 2 Afghans at Border 43
Official Denies Gunboat Attack on Norwegian Ship 43
Kurds Claim Iraq Using Chemical Weapons 43
Rules for Processing Volunteers Announced 43
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue 44
3 Aug Air Patrols Noted 44
More Iraqi Chemical Bombings 44
Iraqi Plane Overflies Bushehr 44
Air Force Bombs Chazabeh Sites 44

Maldives

Government Schedules Presidential Election 23 Sep *[AFP]* 44

5 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0508133488 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Direct Talks Issue—Iraq maintains its "irrevocable" demand for direct negotiations and has not changed its stance on this issue, INA announced. Iraq's stand is "not a condition" but an "understanding" of the best and quickest way to achieve peace, the agency said. The Iraqi statement followed claims by Tehran radio that Iraq had "withdrawn" its demand for direct talks as a condition for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598.

An earlier Tehran radio commentary affirmed that Iran "will consent" to a proposal by the UN secretary general that direct negotiations take place "after the cease-fire." The radio noted that the secretary general has presented a plan to the Security Council whereby the two sides will conduct direct negotiations "after the UN announces a cease-fire."

In a related development, the UAE paper AL-KHALIJ reported that the five permanent members of the Security Council have prepared a working paper recommending that direct talks take place after a cease-fire, according to AFP.

Among other diplomatic developments, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a letter to the Security Council urging it to send a team of experts to Iran to investigate the latest Iraqi chemical weapons (CW) attacks, IRNA noted. However, "informed" UN sources believe the Security Council will postpone action on this issue pending the results of current talks on the implementation of Resolution 598, the agency added.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn discussed current developments in the Iran-Iraq conflict with visiting YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Sanaa radio reported. The Iraqi leader also received a Saudi envoy who delivered a message from Saudi King Fahd, SPA disclosed.

Military Situation—Iraqi warplanes staged further CW attacks against villages in West Azarbayjan Province early 3 August, injuring "over 1,000 more villagers," IRNA announced.

An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA reaffirmed Iraq's denial of any CW attacks against Iranian territory. An Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio reported that Iraqi planes carried out further air strikes on Iranian oil installations 4 August "to deprive the Iranian regime of the oil resources whose revenues are exploited to feed war efforts." Iraqi planes dealt a "destructive blow" to the Asar oil station and destroyed targets in the Tang-e Fanni oil pumping station, the Iraqi command stated.

Tehran radio said the attacks on "two industrial workplaces" in Lorestan caused damage and injured a number of people. The radio subsequently announced that Iranian aircraft raided Iraqi targets west of Chazzabeh 5 August.

In the aftermath of the Mojahedin-e Khalq incursion inside Iran, IRNA revealed that a leading member of the "hypocrites" group was publicly hanged in Ilam. An Iranian intelligence official cited by Tehran radio claimed that documents seized from the rebels show they called on the Iraqis to use CW in order to facilitate their advance toward Bakhtaran.

As for the situation in the Gulf, an Iranian military official denied that Iran was responsible for the 4 August attack on a Norwegian tanker, IRNA reported. Iranian gunboats "have never had and do not have such a mission," he contended, attributing the attack to "those who are against a stable peace" and are "hampering" implementation of Resolution 598.

Jordan and the West Bank

The Jordanian Cabinet confirmed its decision to lay off Jordanian employees on the West Bank in a statement carried by Amman radio, noting that the only exemptions will be employees of the Religious Affairs and Chief Justice's Departments, which will remain to "embody Islamic cultural presence in the occupied Palestinian territory."

All other civil servants and employees of Jordanian independent bodies in the West Bank will be retired as of 16 August. The statement stressed that all the retired civil servants will retain their pension rights, noting that those with long service records will receive retirement salaries, while those with less than 15 years service will receive refunds for pension contributions as well as compensation payments.

Other measures which Jordan is expected to take shortly are the cancellation of martial law regulations for the occupied territory and the abolition of the higher ministerial committee in charge of these regulations, Amman's AL-DUSTUR reported.

"Informed" sources in Amman cited by the Jerusalem paper AL-SHA'B predicted that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i will form a new cabinet shortly which will contain a Ministry of Reconstruction and Development instead of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry. The new cabinet will include ministers who are "vigorous on Jordanizing Jordan," the paper said, and only 5 of the 12 ministers will be of Palestinian origin.

Prime Minister al-Rifa'i received the PLO representative in Amman 4 August, Amman radio reported, noting that Al-Rifa'i agreed to fix a date for a PLO delegation to visit Jordan.

In London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT revealed Egypt is studying the possibility of following Jordan's lead by taking similar measures affecting the Gaza Strip. This would affect the status of the Strip's governor general and the educational system in Gaza, the report noted.

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that Jordan's measures have undone its "unjustified and unwarranted military conquest" of the West Bank 40 years ago, but he stressed that this will have no impact on Israeli policy.

Lebanon

Iranian Role—The Iranian Embassy in Beirut denied that it is holding foreign hostages and stressed that the Iranian mission is "not involved" in the hostages issue, IRNA reported. The denial was in response to the Syrian defense minister's claim in a STERN interview that Western hostages may be held in the Iranian Embassy. An embassy official also denied a UAE press report that Iran has withdrawn 400 IRGC members from Lebanon, IRNA added.

Attack on Syrians—Four Syrian soldiers and two civilians were wounded when a Syrian position in West Beirut was hit by a rocket 4 August, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Murphy Tour

Richard Murphy's arrival in Syria was reported by Damascus radio, which noted that the U.S. assistant secretary of state held talks on Mideast developments with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Murphy had earlier paid an "unexpected" visit to Lebanon, where he met with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Beirut radio noted.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources cited by Cairo radio disclosed that Egypt is contacting a number of Palestinians to arrange a meeting between them and Murphy during the latter's upcoming visit to Cairo. However, the leadership of the Palestinian "uprising" called for a Palestinian boycott of Murphy in its latest "call," as reported by the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio.

Saudi Arabia and the Hajj

All pilgrims must leave Saudi Arabia after completing the hajj and must not stay beyond the stipulated date, the Interior Ministry warned in a statement carried by SPA. Anyone staying behind will be violating rules and instructions and will consequently be subject to "detention, fines, and deportation."

Afghanistan

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Kabul 4 August on a "working visit," Kabul radio reported, noting that he was welcomed by Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil and other Afghan and Soviet officials. Meanwhile, the commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan confirmed that the Soviet troop withdrawal is continuing, noting that units are now starting to leave Qandahar en route for Herat and Kabul, according to Moscow radio.

On the security situation in Kabul, TASS announced that three people were killed and nine injured when a truck packed with explosives blew up in a market area. A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the agency warned that the rebel "Islamic Party" possesses CW and is planning to use it in Kabul and Nangarhar provinces. Regarding accusations that the Soviet Union is using CW in Afghanistan, the spokesman said the USSR will respond to such charges in the spirit of "openness" by giving journalists the chance to see for themselves who the real perpetrators are.

As for Pakistan's role in the Afghanistan conflict, Kabul radio broadcast a statement by an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman condemning Pakistani President Ziaul Haq's call for the downfall of the Afghan Government as "open interference" in Afghan affairs.

Islamabad radio's account of the Pakistani foreign minister's recent talks with Shevardnadze did not mention the Pakistani-Soviet differences referred to in a 3 August TASS report, focusing instead on the points of agreement. The two sides agreed that the Geneva accord paved the way for "friendly and constructive" relations between Pakistan and the USSR, the radio said.

Palestinian Affairs

West Bank Figures Decry Dismissal of Employees

JN0408180188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Today's Jordanian decision to dismiss more than 21,000 Palestinian employees in the occupied territory astonished everyone, especially the employees and the inhabitants of the occupied territory, despite the fact this decision had been expected following the breaking of the legal and administrative links between Amman and the occupied territory.

While the uprising leadership welcomed King Husayn's decision to break these links, saying it was one of the most important achievements of the popular uprising in terms of implementing the Algiers summit resolutions and enhancing PLO status, the Jordanian decision to dismiss the employees raised a great stir in the occupied territory.

Farah al-'Araj, mayor of Bayt Jala, which is situated near Bethlehem, said: What a disaster. Husayn wants to destroy us.

Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, chairman of Jerusalem's Higher Islamic Council, is of the view that the decision is extremely harsh and will not achieve any political objectives.

Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of AL-FAJR newspaper, says: We should reconsider King Husayn's speech. The king's national duty is no longer helping the Palestinians of the occupied territory but pressuring them.

PLO's Abu Sharif on 'Uprising,' Deportations

JN0208111888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 2 Aug (WAKH)—A ranking Palestinian official defended the peace proposals he offered the Israeli enemy in an article published in the U.S. newspaper WASHINGTON POST 2 months ago. He called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state next to Israel and for providing this state with security guarantees.

The PLO chairman's information advisor, Bassam Abu Sharif, told the WAKH correspondent in Abu Dhabi that his proposals, known as the "Abu Sharif document" did not depart from the PNC program and the Arab summit resolutions which called for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East through negotiations held within the framework of an effective international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of its resolutions, including Resolution 242 and 338, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and Israel. [passage omitted]

Abu Sharif expressed his conviction that the Arab-Zionist conflict is not limited by the borders of the Palestinian map and is more widespread than that. World public opinion plays an important role in forming the future of the conflict. That is why he directed his article to world public opinion to confirm the true intentions of the PLO on the just peace which is based on achieving the legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people.

He added that his proposals have a definite political aim in definite political circumstances when the world is currently experiencing international agreement between the two superpowers to reduce nuclear arms, stop the arms race, and at the same time find solutions to difficult regional disputes. [passage omitted]

He affirmed the importance of exploiting the atmosphere of international concord through political and information activities by the PLO to corner the Zionist enemy, working side by side with the blessed popular Palestinian uprising, so the international community will take action and impose the just solution to the Palestine question.

Bassam Abu Sharif refrained from commenting on King Husayn's disengagement of administrative and legal ties between Jordan and the West Bank.

He said: The PLO Executive Committee is currently holding continuous meetings to discuss King Husayn's decision. It will issue a communique on this subject.

He voiced his belief that Jordan's decision is in acordance with the Arab summit resolutions.

Abu Sharif did not rule out the possibility of holding talks between the United States and the PLO because this has become necessary in contributing to paving the way for an effective international conference. It is not possible for the United States to participate in establishing peace in the region if it does not discuss this issue with the two parties to the conflict which are Israel and the PLO.

On his expectations of the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied homeland, Abu Sharif said: The uprising is currently raging. It is about to go into the stage of partial disobedience and is escalating according to its planned stages. [passage omitted]

Abu Sharif called on international organizations to intensify their pressure on the Zionist enemy to stop its crimes against Palestinian citizens, the most recent of which was deporting eight Palestinian citizens to Lebanon yesterday, arresting Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem, closing down the center, and storming the office of the Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR and attacking the employees there.

He stressed the enemy measures aim to quell the uprising which indicates that the enemy has lost his head and has finally resorted to limiting freedom and arresting Palestinian thinkers and writers.

Al-Quds Radio: Call No 23 Outlines 'Activities'

JN0408190088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1714 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Call No 23 has been issued by the popular and national committees in Palestine under the title The Call of The Deportees. The call urges all sides to escalate the uprising and to implement the following activities:

1. August 8 1988 is a day of solidarity with Palestinian detainees, particularly with those in Ansar-3. Solidarity activities will be organized and women's organizations will shoulder their responsibilities in this regard.

2. August 9 is a day of general strike on the occasion of the beginning of the 9th month of the uprising.

3. August 10 is an information day in the occupied land. On that day the uprising's demands and achievements will be explained on both popular and international levels. Journalists shall play a significant role in this respect.

4. August 13 is a day in which the popular and national committees will appraise their role to improve their performance and organization and to draw up the necessary programs to improve the uprising.

5. August 17 is Jerusalem's day. On that day a general strike shall be staged in homage to the capital of our Palestinian state and to protest against the campaigns of detentions and arrests against its faithful sons.

6. August 21, the 18th anniversary of the Zionist burning of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, is a day of demonstrations and clashes with the occupiers to protest against this disgraceful act, which is part of the attempts to desecrate the sacred places and destroy them through excavations and other acts. This day shall be considered the day of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

7. August 22 is a day of general strike to protest against the tax authorities' practices against the heroic merchants and in solidarity with their struggle.

Regarding the visit by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy to the region, the call says:

The visit by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy to the Middle East is only a continuation of Shultz' plan and an attempt to breathe life into it after it was foiled by the uprising.

Hence, the uprising's leadership calls for a continuation in the boycott of the U.S. envoy, or any other U.S. Administration envoy, as long as this administration continues its denial of the people's national rights.

The leadership asks our people to receive Murphy with demonstrations and fierce clashes with the occupation troops.

OPEC Affairs

Nigeria's Lukman on Danger of Overproduction

LD0408163988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1051 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Lausanne, Switzerland, Aug 4 (KUNA)—Contin ued over-production by the U.A.E. and other OPEC members could provoke another price committee meeting, or even an extraordinary conference of the organisation, conference President and Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman said Thursday.

In an interview with KUNA the minister commented that "we have many mechanisms (to deal with over-production), we have this committee, we have an extraordinary conference, we have the scheduled conference in November". "It depends on what happens over the next few weeks, next few months," he added. Pressed on whether an emergency conference might be called, he replied "Why not".

The Nigerian minister, speaking after a one-day meeting of OPEC's price committee, predicted that prices would move "above 16 dollars" before November. The committee comprises the oil ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

He also distanced himself from a highly pessimistic report on future price conditions, drawn up by the OPEC Secretariat and presented to the committee yesterday. The report had warned that unless OPEC members imediately started to respect quota levels and non-OPEC cooperated with the organisation, then prices would not improve "even during the fourth quarter of 1988 and beyond".

"The Secretariat report is an opinion. It is entitled to its own point of view. They are interested in OPEC taking a very hard look a what is happening", he said. "The Secretariat can't pat us on the back and say that we are doing a good job", Lukman acknowledged. "I admit there is some over-production, but nobody can tell the exact amount for certain", he went on. On prices "I am not jumping for joy, but there is no need to be unduly pessimistic," he said.

The Secretariat report, based on findings by OPEC's Dutch auditors, showed that six members—Ecuador, Gabon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E. and Venezuela—had produced above quota during May. The report did not give figure for June or July, but oil traders believe the organisation's output has mounted sharply since then. If the overproduction was as much as had been reported "then the market would have collapsed. Some of the reported figures must be taken with a pinch of salt", he said.

Specialist trade journals have claimed that OPEC's July production is above 19 million barrels a day, more than two million barrels higher than the organisation's 15.06 million barrels ceiling and the estimated 2.5 million barrels produced by Iraq, which is not included in the quota system.

Moving on to the the Gulf conflict and the implications of any ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, he pointed out that "they haven't stopped fighting yet".

"However, it looks as if there will be a ceasefire. It is a good thing for us (OPEC), it would be a good thing for the oil market".

At the price committee meetings members had discussed the question of the war relief crude offered by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to Iraq, he observed. Asked whether a ceasefire would immediatedly prompt calls for an extraordinary OPEC conference, he replied that "we have to see what type of ceasefire, what type of peace emerges".

Chad

2,000 Opposition Troops 'Ready To Return' Home

AB0408204088 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Acheikh ibn Oumar's men, 2,000 in all, currently in Sudan and disarmed by the Sudanese forces in the Darfur Region, are ready to return to Chad. This was disclosed by a spokesman of the Sudanese Army, who quoted statements by the commander of the troops of the Chadian opposition movement.

General Fathi Ahmad Ali, who said he took refuge along with his troops in Sudan following the arrest of their leader by Libyan authorities, told the Sudanese military officials that he had entered the Darfur Region without any hostile intention toward Sudan or Chad.

Meanwhile, reports from Tunis say President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today had another telephone conversation with his Chadian counterpart, Hissein Habre. This was the second conversation in 48 hours between the two leaders and it occurred a few days before the visit of the Tunisian leader to Libya, scheduled for next Saturday [6 August]. One can guess the two leaders probably discussed the Chad-Libya conflict, in which Ben Ali's Tunisia wants to play a mediating role.

Habre Receives OAU Secretary General Oumarou

AB0408220488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Ide Oumarou arrived in Chad yesterday. The OAU secretary general was received this morning by the head of state El Hadj Hissein Habre. The minister of foreign affairs, Gouara Lassou, was present at this meeting with Ide Oumarou. For over an hour the president of the Republic and his guest discussed the Chad-Libya crisis. The main theme of the talks between the head of state and the OAU secretary general was the recent Libyan proposal aimed at bridging the gap between Ndjamena and Tripoli.

After the meeting the OAU secretary general spoke to the press. Ide Oumarou was interviewed by Abba Ali Kaya and Althore Nasi Tito:

[Begin recording] [Oumarou] I am on a working mission. It will be recalled that at the recent OAU summit, African heads of state and the world community were informed of certain initiatives taken by Libya over the Chad-Libya crisis. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announced among other things that he would release all Chadian prisoners of war, who would be put at the disposal of the OAU General Secretariat.

Following this announcement I went to Tripoli for confirmation of the various announcements concerning the liberation of these prisoners. During my visit to Tripoli I received some information that I conveyed to the Chadian Government, and this visit is aimed at learning the reaction of the Chadian Government to these initiatives and to this information. This is what I earlier discussed with President Hissein Habre. In view of the reaction of the Chadian Government to the various proposals made, I believe the Secretariat will be able to pursue the implementation of the decision to free the Chadian prisoners of war.

[Reporter] Mr Oumarou, you discussed the Chad-Libya crisis. However, there is a concentration of the Islamic Legion in eastern Chad, specifically, in the Darfur Region. Will this situation affect what you do?

[Oumarou] The information we have received is, as you mentioned, of great concern because the various resolutions passed by the OAU organs call on both parties to abstain from acts likely to jeopardize current peace efforts. The OAU and the OAU ad hoc committee are monitoring the situation, and it is their hope that nothing will compromise the improved relations between Chad and Libya. We hope, in any case, that this information [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Egypt

Cairo Arranging Murphy-Palestinians Meeting

NC0408160888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Responsible sources in the Foreign Ministry have stated that Egypt is currently making contacts with a number of Palestinians to arrange a meeting between them and Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, during his visit to Cairo which will begin this Tuesday. These contacts, the sources add, fall within the framework of efforts to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

Jordan-Style Measures for Gaza Said Under Study

PM0408155588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 88 p 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Considering Taking Measures on Gaza Similar to the Jordanian Measures"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from an informed diplomatic source in Cairo that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is currently studying the recent Jordanian decisions related to the severance of legal and administrative links with the West Bank and transfer of full responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO.

The source said that the purpose of the ministry's study is to probe the possibility of similar Egyptian decisions on the Gaza Strip. The study, the source added, covers the legal status of the Gaza Strip's governor general, whose temporary headquarters is in Cairo; Egypt's supervision of the Gaza Al-Azhar Institute exams and various school examinations in the strip; the annual

Egyptian educational mission there; and the Gaza Strip governor's issuance of birth and death certificates, with a view to transferring these responsibilities to the PLO.

In his exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source said that Egypt has rejected more than one Israeli offer to place Gaza back under Egyptian administration and attempts to persuade Egypt to market citrus fruits for the people of the strip, because Egypt did not want to give the impression that it was trying to strengthen its links with the Gaza Strip at the expense of the PLO.

The source emphasized that Egypt's contacts with the Palestinian leadership were held in consultation with the PLO and its reprentatives in Cairo.

The source added that a high-level Egyptian-Jordanian meeting may be held to discuss the Jordanian measures and possible related developments. He said that Egyptian official circles are prepared to discuss with Jordan and the PLO a plan for the formation of a Palestinian government in exile to be in charge of internal affairs in the occupied territory, if such a subject is raised.

'Abd al-Majid Message for 'Arafat on Jordan Move

NC0408121388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with PLO representative Sa'id Kamal in Cairo today. Following the meeting, Kamal stated that Dr 'Abd al-Majid had given him a message for Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO representative disclosed that the message deals with developments in the Palestinian issue in light of King Husayn's recent decision to cut administrative and legal ties to the West Bank, as well as with Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the Palestinian uprising.

AL-AHRAM Cited on Jordan's West Bank Measures

NC0508050588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper asserts that King Husayn's decision to abrogate legal and administrative links with the West Bank represents a significant turning point in the political struggle for the Palestinian cause. The paper says that the king's decision must be taken seriously by the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, so that the initiative will remain in the hands of the Arabs and Palestinians.

In its commentary in Friday's [5 August] edition, the paper notes that the Jordanian decision is one of the most important and serious Arab resolutions regarding the Palestinian cause since 1948. It is the first time that the Arab side has taken the initiative and made a well-studied move. The paper says that the Jordanian decision should receive comprehensive consideration by the Arabs, as a prelude to a unified Arab stand designed to serve the cause of peace, because this decision asserts a number of principles undisputed by anyone in the Arab world.

The paper points out that the Jordanian measure places the onus for administering and handling the Palestinian people's affairs in the occupied territories on the PLO and places the onus on Israel to accept reality and recognize the PLO in its capacity as the party responsible for the Palestinian people. In conclusion, the paper calls for swift Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to avert the emergence of a vacuum.

Israel Protests Statement by Butrus Ghali

JN0208175488 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Aug 88 pp 1,6

[By 'Abd al-Nabi' 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] The Israeli Government protested to the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv the day before yesterday over the statements made by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who described current Egyptian-Israeli relations as cool. In its protest, Israel affirmed that Dr Ghali's attack on Israel and his accusation that it has no serious desire for peace conflict with the spirit of the Camp David accords. Egyptian political circles affirmed that Israel is trying to pressure political leaders in Egypt to fire some leading Egyptian officials who are hostile to Israel. The list prepared by Israel includes Dr Ghali; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the International Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Israel had protested more than once over statements by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister, on Egypt's commitment to protecting Arab security and over the increase of the Egyptian forces in Sinai. Three months ago, the Israeli pressures succeeded in moving Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry, to the Emigration Department. Professor Shim'on Shamir, the new Israeli ambassador to Egypt, is expected to arrive in Cairo early in September to assume his duties. Egypt had approved the nomination of Shamir as Israel's ambassador to Egypt. Shamir was director of the Israeli regional center in Egypt for 3 years and speaks Arabic. He also worked as a professor of history of the Middle East and Africa at Tel Aviv University. The new Israeli ambassador did not occupy any post at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Ghali Interviewed on Gulf, Mideast Issues

PM0308154488 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Aug 88 p 9

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by correspondent Sergey Medvedko: "Butrus Ghali: 'Wasting No Time'"; date and place not given]

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs and president of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society, was in the Soviet Union on a visit. This is what he told LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent Sergey Medvedko:

[Ghali] Iran's recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 598 is probably the most important event in the Near and Middle East region in recent days. Egypt regards this decision as the first step along the path to the end of a bloody war that has lasted nearly 8 years. Now, in sporting terms, the ball is in the UN Security Council's court. Active efforts are being made there to implement the resolution. One would like to hope that the Council and its permanent members recognize their responsibility and will waste no time in using this opportunity to stop the terrible toll of victims in the Iran-Iraq conflict. I think the tragedy of 3 July in which the Iranian passenger aircraft was shot down by U.S. Air Force [as published] missiles over the Persian Gulf should prompt everyone to seek the speediest possible settlement of the conflict, which is claiming more and more victims.

However, despite Iran's recognition of the resolution, I am far from complacent. Alas, the situation in the Arab world remains complex and explosive: The conflict in the Persian Gulf continues, the civil war in Lebanon drags on, the people's uprising by the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories rages, there is unrest in Sudan, tension persists in relations between Chad and Libya—in a word, there are a whole range of problems and conflicts that threaten the peoples of the region.

But the crux of the problem, the fuse, so to speak, in the Near East situation is the Palestinian question, which must be resolved on the basis of guarantees of the inalienable rights of the Arab Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. A peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem can be achieved only by means of talks through the convening of an international Middle East conference, with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO and the great powers—the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

We pin great hopes on improving relations between the two great powers—the USSR and the United States. Their coordinated actions create for all mankind real prerequisites for peace, security, and stability, not only globally, but also for resolving regional problems. Egypt welcomes the Soviet Union's initiatives on preventing further increase of tension in international relations, believing that complete disarmament is the best way around the threat to peace.

I think mankind's future is inseparably linked with the peoples' cooperation. Judge for yourself. There are the questions of air pollution, drought, the energy problem, the foreign debt and backwardness of Third World countries, the widening of the gulf between rich and poor. How can we stand in isolation in the face of this challenge, to say nothing of the danger of the arms race? Dialogue between peoples is the only way to resolve urgent tasks.

The traditional bonds that link our two countries' peoples seem to me to be the embodiment of friendship and an example of the new type of international relations. They have withstood many tests. Yes, sometimes differences have emerged. But, as happens with real comrades, our arguments and occasional differences of view only strengthen our friendship.

Senate Decison on U.S. Embassy in Israel Viewed

NC0408045488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the U.S. Senate's decision approving appropriations for the construction of two buildings for the U.S. Embassy in Israel—one in Tel Aviv and the other in Jerusalem—constitutes an obstacle in the path of negotiations on the fate of the city of Jerusalem, which Israel has annexed and proclaimed as its capital.

In a commentary in its edition tomorrow, Thursday, AL-AHRAM says that the Senate's decision runs counter to international resolutions and Arab unanimity, and even to the U.S. official stand on Jerusalem.

The paper adds that this decision is a step toward the realization of the Israeli aspiration of making Jerusalem its official capital, recognized by world states that will set up their embassies there instead of in Tel Aviv.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say: Most countries have refused to submit to Israeli pressures to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem. The U.S. decision comes as evidence that the pressures of the Zionist lobby have not ceased, and that the U.S. move might open the door for other states.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Mubarak

NC0308151088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, 3 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil received a written message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today. Ambassador Hasan Shash, head of the Egyptian Interests section in Lebanon, gave President al-Jumayyil the message during an audience with him today. The Lebanese presidential election and related consultations were discussed at the meeting.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 3 Aug

NC0408051288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Oleandrov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Administration, arrived in Cairo last night for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

His talks with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials are expected to include an exchange of views on issues before the next UN General Assembly session, which starts in September.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani on Talks With Mubarak, Chad

NC0308153488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party in Sudan, has praised President Mubarak's role in seeking to attain stability in Africa. He noted that cooperation and coordination between Egypt and Sudan are being maintained and added that efforts aimed at reaching good results in this respect in the near future are continuing.

Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Al-Mirghani said that they had reviewed the situation with regard to Sudan's neighboring countries and the attempts being made to establish stability in those countries. He noted that their lack of stability and the conflicts among them have had their effects on Sudan. [passage omitted]

To a question on Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, Al-Mirghani declared that Sudan is seeking to improve ties with Ethiopia. He referred to the recent visit by the Ethiopian foreign minister to Sudan. [passage omitted]

Concerning the situation in Sudan's Darfur region, Al-Mirghani pointed out that the war among the Chadian factions has resulted in instability and insecurity in the Darfur Region.

The leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party asserted that his country is trying to rectify matters so there will not be any external conflicts on Sudanese territory and so the Chadian factions engaged in power struggles can reach agreement.

Responding to a question on the Sudanese view of the recent Jordanian decision vis-a-vis the West Bank, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani expressed hope that closer ties would be forged between Jordan and the PLO for the good of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Communication Talks With Saudi Arabia Conclude

NC0408130588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1206 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—The final session of Egyptian-Saudi talks on cooperation in the field of communications was held this afternoon. Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications, led the Egyptian side, while Dr Alwai Darwish Kayyal, Saudi minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph, led the Saudi side.

The talks dealt with ways of bolstering cooperation in the field of telecommunications and posts, promoting the exchange of technical expertise, and training Saudi cadres with the help of Egyptian experts. The talks also dealt with the development of international communication lines between the two countries to meet the increasing demand for them. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Receives Australian Minister Baker

NC0408130188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Australian Energy Minister Michael Baker [name and title as received] today.

Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, who attended the meeting, stated that the Australian guest renewed an invitation which the Australian prime minister had previously extended to Dr Sidqi to visit Australia.

Eng Abazah added that Australian Government has granted Egypt $1 million, which will be allocated for the study and design of the Al-Za'faranah power plant in the Red Sea Governorate. The plant will be operated by coal and gas for the first time. [passage omitted]

Power Plant Talks Conclude

NC0408143288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Official talks between Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and Michael Baker, Australian minister of mineral resources [name and title as received], who is visiting Cairo at present, were concluded today.

The two parties agreed to embark on practical measures to establish huge coal-fired power plants which will employ the latest technology.

Eng Abazah stated that Egypt's Electricity Authority will hold consultations with Australia's New South Wales Electricity Authority to prepare the technical specifications for the coal-fired power plants. He said that studies on the establishment of the 2,500-megawatt Al-Za'faranah plant on the Gulf of Suez will be completed within a year. These studies, he added, will be presented to the World Bank and international financing agencies to obtain the capital necessary for this giant project, which will be carried out as part of the next 5-year plan.

Eng Abazah noted that Al-Za'faranah will be the first coal-fired plant in Egypt and the biggest of its kind in the Middle East. The project will be implemented in three phases. [passage omitted]

Minister Abazah added that the two countries had agreed to train 30 Egyptian engineers and technicians in the latest systems for planning, implementing, and operating coal-fired plants in Australia. [passage omitted]

The Australian minister stated that it had been agreed with Egypt to bolster cooperation in the field of electricity generation using solar and wind energy, in addition to power generated from human and animal waste (biogas).

Australia has expressed willingness to train Egyptian experts in ways of exploiting the waste from coal-fired plants in the cement, brick, and fertilizer industries. [passage omitted]

Security Council Urged To Meet on Gulf War

NC0508062588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2111 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has urged the UN Security Council to hold an emergency session as soon as possible to issue a resolution compelling both Iran and Iraq to implement the provisions of Resolution 598, which call for an immediate halt to the fighting preparatory to other measures to end quickly the tragedy of the Gulf war.

In its commentary in Friday's [5 August] edition the paper says that no one doubts UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's sincere efforts to reach a speedy cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. However, the paper adds, his endeavors are encountering procedural obstacles which hamper the accomplishment of this goal, considered an initial step necessary to spare the two countries further suffering, pain, and unjustified losses after showing a sincere desire to end the war. The paper points out that the problem of direct negotiations has emerged; should negotiations between the two warring countries begin immediately, as Iraq is demanding, or should they be delayed until a cease-fire has been declared, as Iran insists? The paper declares that this is a superficial matter which could drag on, with each side insisting on its position while the fighting, with all its unpredictable dangers, continues.

Security 'Detention Campaigns' Reported

PM0408133388 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Security Organs Continue Detention Campaigns"]

[Text] Security organs have continued their detention campaigns over the past few days. Nearly 300 people have been detained in Cairo, Al-Jizah, Alexandria, Al-Daqahliyah, Al-Sharqiyah, Sawhaj, and Qina Governorates.

In Al-Sharqiyah Governorate security organs stormed 15 houses and arrested 'Ali Muhammad Makhim, Majdi Lashin, Usamah Humayd, and Dr Mahmud Yusuf. Security organs are still pursuing Sabir 'Abd al-Rahman and threatening to arrest his family. Muhammad al-Husayni and Rida al-Najjar have also been detained.

In Al-Mansurah security organs stormed a number of villages at 0200 hours last Friday [29 July] on the pretext that permission had not been obtained for performing 'Id prayers in the open. They arrested a number of citizens, among them Hamdi Gharib Tawfiq from Qaramit village.

In Cairo and Al-Jizah Governorates security organs arrested scores of Islamic group members: Nabil al-Bura'i and Tariq 'Amir, who gave himself up after his father (70 years of age) was detained and severely beaten. In Imbabah 'Abd al-Mun'im Jamal and Sa'id Mahrus have been detained.

In Alexandria Dr Salah 'Abd al-Salam Sayyid Ahmad, Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir, Husni 'Uthman, Dr Ahmad Tariq Tal'at—professor at Cairo University Faculty of Commerce, Ahmad Muhammad al-Mamluk, and Ahmad Anwar al-Mahdi have been arrested and transferred to Qina Prison.

In Qina 'Abd al-Hamid Zanqan 'Ali and Sayyid Mubarak have been arrested and transferred to Al-Hadrah Prison in Alexandria.

In Sawhaj Muhammad Abu al-Yazid al-'Afifi (known as Al-Amir) has been arrested and transferred to Abu Za'bal Prison. Security organs have also arrested Ahmad al-Qayrafani and Mukhtar Fathallah from Qina.

It is worth mentioning that the interior minister refused to implement judicial rulings calling for the release of nearly 400 others arrested in various cities of the republic; he rearrested them.

Islamic Pharmaceuticals Company Advertisement

JN0208172288 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 9

[Advertisement published by the Islamic Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, and Medical Supplies Company on the "national day" of the City of Alexandria under the headlines: "On Alexandria's national day, the Islamic Pharaceuticals, Chemicals, and Medical Supplies Company-FARCO sends greetings to Alexandria Governor Mr al-Jawsaqi, wishes the great people of Alexandria wealth and prosperity, and hopes that the bride of the Mediterranean Sea will witness further progress and growth under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak"]

[Text] The pharmaceutical industry is an ancient one in Egypt and FARCO is a distinguished addition to this industry. It is an immense achievement in the pharmaceutical industry, backed by the King Faysal Islamic Bank.

Egypt has taken great strides on the road to industrial progress during the past years and Egyptian industrialists gained experience and knowledge in various fields, using in their activities the most sophisticated and complex modern technology. They absorbed this techonology and employed it to suit the environment and to meet domestic needs. The

Egyptian pharmaceutical industry achieved broad, quick strides which increased the size and quality of production. Egyptian pharmaceuticals have advanced quickly to become one of the Islamic pillars in the overall structure of the national economy, despite the obstacles and difficulties this vital industry is facing. FARCO is an example of which we are honored and proud because it is one of the bastions of the pharmaceutical industry in Egypt and the Middle East and one of the pioneering projects which the King Faysal Islamic Bank presented to Egypt and the Arab and Islamic worlds.

In all of its activities and products, the company adheres to our spiritual heritage and our cultural and moral values. The Islamic Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, and Medical Supplies Company-FARCO is the first pharmaceutical company in Egypt and the Islamic world to produce pharmaceuticals free of alcohol and materials derived from pork. It is one of the few companies that were born great, capable of active performance since the day it was established.

The company's factories were established on 25,000 sq km of land. Its paid-up capital is 5 million pounds and its investments amount to 25 million pounds. This great achievement is backed by the King Faysal Islamic bank which contributes 59 percent of the capital.

Our progressive march will continue thanks to the efficient men who are devoted to God and the country and who have resolved to overcome all difficulties in order to continue our advancement.

Briefs

Outgoing Italian Ambassador

Consultative Council President Dr 'Ali Lutfi yesterday received Italian Ambassador to Egypt Giovanni Migliuolo at the end of his tenure in Egypt. [Excerpt] [*JN0208145988 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 8*]

CSSR Loan

The Czechoslovak Government has agreed to grant the electricity sector a loan of $150 million with easy terms to finance a number of urgent power projects. This was stated by Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, who said the loan will finance the Al-Tabbin [name as published] station project, south of cairo, which has an approximately 250 megawatt capacity. The loan will also finance replacement and modernization at Talkha station which has overrun its anticipated life-span. It will also be used to finance and modernize the first and second units of the Kafr al-Dawwar power station. [Text] [*JN0108110088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jul 88 p 1*]

Debts to Norway, Japan

Egypt and Norway yesterday signed an agreement on rescheduling Egypt's accrued debts in accordance with the joint communique of the Paris Club. The settlement of the rescheduled sums will be made over a 10-year period with a 5-year grace period. The agreement was signed for Egypt by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahawi, senior under secretary of the Ministry of International Cooperation, and by the Norwegian charge d'affaires in Cairo for Norway. A responsible source at the Ministry of International Cooperation has stated that Japan is the only member of the Paris Club with which negotiations will be held to reschedule Egypt's debts to it. He added that these negotiations will take place in Tokyo in September. [Text] [*JN0208151888 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 1*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD0208115188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1027 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Aug (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution this morning telephoned Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

During this contact, the brother leader congratulated President Ben Ali on the success of the Democratic Constitutional Rally extraordinary meeting that took place in sisterly Tunisia.

Ownership of Factories Transferred to Workers

NC0408181388 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The People's General Committee for Industry has announced a decision that the ownership of 73 factories in the various municipalites of the Great Jamahiriyah is to be transferred to the producers who work in them. The decision also called for the formation of committees in the various municipalities to carry this out and hand over the factories to the producers who work in them.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Attack Norwegian Tanker in Gulf

NC0408081588 Paris AFP in English 0808 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Dubayy, Aug 4 (AFP)—Five Iranian gunboats attacked a Norwegian oil tanker in the southern Gulf early Thursday, despite Iran's pledge to halt such raids during U.N. peace talks at the United Nations, regional shipping sources said.

The 284,502-tonne Singapore-flagged "Berge Lord" was hit but not seriously damaged as it was heading out to open sea, the sources said, without reporting any casualties.

The gunboats, escorted by a larger vessel, fired several machine-gun rounds at the tanker as it sailed some 12 nautical miles (20 kilometres) south of the Iranian island of Abu Musa, off the United Arab Emirates, the sources said.

After the attack, the "Berge Lord," carrying crude from the Saudi port of Ras Tanura, continued its voyage under the protection of what was believed to be a U.S. warship, the sources said. It was headed for Rotterdam. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Somali Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Amir

JN0108133088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1138 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 1 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with developments in the Horn of Africa, current Arab issues, and bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed by Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Hamud when he was received by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, in Manama today.

Concludes Visit

JN0208210388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 2 Aug (WAKH)—Dr Mohamed Ali Hamid, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs left Manama tonight at the end of a visit to Bahrain during which he delivered a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

The message dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa, issues of common concern, and bilateral relations.

He was seen off by Bahraini Transport and Communication Minister Ibrahim Muhammad Humaydan.

Qatar

Envoy to France on Relations With USSR, PRC

JN0408180888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 88

Interview with Ambassador to France 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Hamad by radio correspondent Yusuf Dakkash in Paris; live or recorded, date not given]

[Text] [Dakkash] Your Excellency, Qatar established diplomatic relations with the USSR a few days ago.

Before that, Qatar also established similar relations with the PRC.

Does this fall within the framework of a Qatari policy or within the policy of the GCC, four countries of which have so far established diplomatic relations with the USSR?

[Hamad] Each country has the right to lay down its foreign policy. Now is the time to establish relations with the USSR and the PRC.

The USSR and the PRC are important because they are two permanent members of the Security Council.

The relations were established with these two countries because of their international weight and position, their relations with the Arab countries, and their positive stands on Arab issues.

I would like to say that the USSR and the PRC have always supported Arab rights and championed our causes in the international quarters, particularly our primary cause—the Palestine question.

This support has always been appreciated by our Arab nation.

The present international detente also calls on world countries to cooperate without any preconditions, except the principles of the UN Charter agreed upon by everybody.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Ministry Orders Pilgrims To Leave

LD0408160188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 4 Aug, SPA—The Interior Ministry has called on all those who have come here to visit or to perform the hajj al-'umrah [minor pilgrimage] to leave the country after God has enabled them to perform their pilgrimage duty and all their rites in ease and security. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the Interior Ministry's statement:

The Interior Minister is pleased to announce to all brother pilgrims—who have come to the Kingdom by the grace of God to perform their pilgrimage duty and who have performed all the rites in ease and security and have fulfilled their purpose, and all those who have come to perform the hajj al-'umrah or to visit, whatever their nationality—that they must leave this country for their homelands in peace and with care.

They must comply with the dates set for leaving the Kingdom and not tarry.

While announcing this, the ministry stresses to all brother pilgrims, those who came to perform the hajj al-'umrah, and visitors, that anyone staying behind will be violating rules and instructions, and will consequently be subject to detention, fines, and deportation.

The Interior Ministry would like to draw the attention of citizens and legal residents of this country to the fact that they must not employ anyone who has stayed behind, whether a pilgrim, a person who has performed the hajj al-'umrah, or a visitor.

We expect everyone not to provide accommodation or sanctuary of any kind to anyone who has stayed behind.

Whoever employs, accommodates, or hides anyone who has stayed behind will be heavily fined and severely punished, and will be subject to both the maximum fine and imprisonment.

Violators will bear responsibility for all the rights and duties of those who stay behind and who are accommodated, employed, or hidden by them.

The ministry also warns transport companies, corporations, and taxi owners that it is not permitted to take any pilgrim, a person who has performed the hajj al-'umrah or any visitor from the pilgrimage and al-'umrah areas—namely Mecca, Jeddah and al-Madinah—to any other part of the Kingdom for any reason.

Any person violating these principles and instructions will be subject to the severest punishments—the maximum imprisonment and fine.

The ministry urges every citizen to do his utmost to cooperate with the competent authorities and report violators.

AL-YAWM Assails Iranian 'Contradictions' of 598

JN0208180188 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Contradiction"]

[Text] The contradictions displayed by the Iranian regime's officials the day before yesterday are indicative of the existence of two probabilities.

The first probability pertains to the fact that the Iranian regime might be experiencing the turbulence and spasms characteristic of those going through the throes of death.

Thus, the statements made by Tehran officials turn out to be no more than hallucinations while their pledges fail to be honored.

The second probability pertains to the fact that the ayatollahs might have been embroiled by their announcement of their acceptance of the international Resolution No 598 which calls for maintaining a cease-fire between the two warring states.

Consequently, they could have found themselves unable to return to the warfronts where devastating Iraqi blows are being dealt to them.

They might not want to proceed on the road of peace.

So, they could have sought a means to end the war to prepare for new conspiracies and seditions.

In both cases, the hostile Iranian intentions still prevail in Tehran.

Or else how are we to understand the official announcement made by Besharati, Iranian first deputy minister of foreign affairs, that Iran accepts direct negotiations with the Iraqi delegation, while the Iranian delegation at the United Nations nullifies and negates the statements made by Besharati?

Hence, we would not find it strange if Khomeyni overrides and overrules the pledges made by the Iranian delegation in New York.

Observers have so far concluded that Iran is procrastinating and that it has not demonstrated any positive signs of goodwill.

Statements continue to be made on the sanctity of punishing Iraq at a time when their delegation is holding peace talks with the UN secretary general—this is the height of contradiction.

How can Iraq and the UN Security Council trust statements that are nullified, negated, and overruled by other statements issued by the same Iranian party?

This state of affairs reflects the absence of a specific Iranian decisionmaking body.

Furthermore, it also reflects the intentions harbored by the Iranians against Iraq and the entire region.

If the Iranians are sincere in their pursuit of peace, they should facilitate the peace process and work for the sake of attaining a lasting peace that gives the Iranian and Iraqi people a chance to coexist without conspiracies or seditions.

United Arab Emirates

Decision Not To Attack Ships Called 'Positive'

JN0208181288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Initiatives on the Road to Peace"]

[Text] Iran has decided to refrain from attacking ships in the Gulf during the peace talks that the United Nations is currently holding and until the Security Council resolution on a cease-fire becomes effective.

This decision falls within the series of accelerating developments that followed the Iranian acceptance of this resolution.

Iraq had accepted the resolution earlier. This emphasizes that there is a decisive trend to end this destructive war between the two Muslim countries.

If the period that followed the Iranian acceptance of the Security Council resolution did not meet the desire of the Arab and Muslim nations not to see a single drop of blood shed from the peoples of the two countries, procedural obstacles, not anything else, prevented this.

The two countries stressed their desire for peace.

This was expressed by the UN secretary general, who admitted that procedural problems have so far hindered the achievement of a cease-fire.

This, however, did not prevent the secretary general from expressing optimism that a cease-fire will be achieved this week.

It is certain that these procedural problems, in essence, reflect the atmosphere of suspicion between the two countries.

This is natural given the complexities of an 8-year long war.

Therefore, initiatives to confirm and prove the desire for peace and calm atmosphere are more than desired at the current stage to give enough impetus to the efforts aimed at arranging peace negotiations and bringing about a cease-fire.

Within this framework, Iran's step to refrain from attacking ships in the Gulf is positive for peace arrangements.

At the same time, it proves to the entire world that the region is at the threshold of a new stage where tension in this important waterway is eliminated.

The war of tankers and civilian ships in the Gulf, which has so far damaged some 540 tankers and ships, was one of the most important factors that heightened tension in the region and moved the conflict to the stage of direct internationalization.

It required this massive mobilization of foreign fleets currently in the Gulf.

The entire region will not rest until a cease-fire between the two countries is implemented and they enter into arrangements of a lasting peace.

This requires that complications arising from disagreements over procedures be solved.

These complications should never be allowed to overwhelm both countries' declared desire for peace.

INA Calls Direct Talks 'Irrevocable Demand'

JN0408184788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Citing the Iranian regime's central news unit, the Tehran radio in Persian this evening said Iraq has relinquished its stand on direct negotiations with Iran. In response to this, the INA asserts that our stand is the same—it has not changed. This stand is not a condition but an understanding of the sound way to achieve peace and the quickest way to acheive it. The INA also affirms that direct negotiations are an irrevocable demand.

Official Comments on Attack on Norwegian Ship

JN0408192488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Commenting on the piracy act by the Iranian gunboats against the Norwegian oil tanker "Berge Lord" in the Arabian Gulf waters today, the undersecretary of the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry said that this act proves that the Iranian regime does not keep its promises. He pointed out the statement made by the deputy foreign minister of the Iranian regime during his recent visit to the Gulf states in which he said that his regime will not attack cargo ships in the Arabian Gulf waters.

The Iraqi official said: This act of piracy proves to the world the type of people with whom Iraq is dealing. We do not know how to reach an understanding with such people who make promises and then break them.

He noted that the aggression on the Norwegian tanker today is proof that the Iranian regime does not know the meaning of its promises. What is worse than this is that the Iranian regime lied again and denied that it attacked the tanker.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi undersecretary said: This is a clear picture of the nature, behavior, and line of the Iranian rulers in how they deal with their promises.

Saudi Information Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN0408075888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir arrived here today on a visit to Iraq. Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim received him at the airport.

Delivers King's Message

LD0408182688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad/Jeddah, 4 Aug (SPA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic, received at noon today a verbal message from his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. The message was delivered by his excellency, the minister of information, Ali al-Sha'ir.

The audience was attended by Revolution Command Council [RCC] members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president of the Republic; Their Excellencies Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs, and Latif Nussayif Jasim, minister of culture and information, acting foreign minister, and secretary to the president of the Republic.

His Excellency Minister al-Sha'ir arrived at Baghdad Airport earlier today. He was welcomed and seen off by [Saudi Ambassador] Tirad al-Harithi, his excellency the Iraqi minister of culture and information and the ambassador of the two holy places in Baghdad, and several Iraqi officials. Minister al-Sha'ir returned to Jeddah this afternoon.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets UN Ambassadors in New York

JN0408165188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 aug 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the ambassadors of Japan, France, China, the USSR, and Britain in New York last night. An INA correspondent in New York said these meetings took place as efforts continue at the United Nations to implement UN Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war. He added the meetings also dealt with bilateral issues which concern Iraq and each of these countries.

Sees India's Rao, Vernon Walters

JN0508102988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1007 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] United Nations, 5 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Narasimha Rao, Indian minister of external affairs, and Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, separately last night.

The INA correspondent says the two meetings dealt with ongoing international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for the comprehensive settlement of the Iraq-Iran war. The discussions also dealt with other issues of mutual interest.

Sa'dun Hammadi Receives USSR, French Envoys

JN0408143088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1212 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, received separately today USSR Ambassador Viktor Minin and French Charge d'Affaires Bernard Vinzout [name as received] in Baghdad.

Sa'dun Hammadi viewed the latest ongoing deliberations at the United Nations to end the Iraq-Iran war and establish a comprehensive and durable peace.

Acting Minister of Health Appointed 1 Aug

JN0108165488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1629 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—It was announced here today that Dr 'Abd al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id, director of the scientific affairs department at the presidential office, has been appointed acting minister of health. A decree issued by the RCC authorizes Dr 'Abd al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id all powers granted to the relevant minister.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,284

JN0408162888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,284 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities for last night and today as follows:

1. To deprive the Iranian regime of the oil resources whose revenues are exploited to feed war efforts, the aircraft of our daring Air Force, at 1030 [0630 GMT] today, carried out the following two heroic missions:

a. Our aircraft dealt a destructive blow to the Asar oil station.

b. A number of our planes raided targets in the Tang-e Fanni oil pumping station and destroyed these targets.

After accomplishing these two missions, all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The Army helicopters flew 59 combat sorties to inflict more losses on the enemy. All our helicotpers then returned safely to base.

3. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, two enemy vehicles were set on fire and damaged and three enemy personel were killed.

4. Our maritime observation posts spotted two small enemy maritime targets near the Al-'Amiq Port. One of our naval units fired at the enemy targets, forcing them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 august 1988

Denial of CW Charge Reiterated

JN0508101188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has reiterated his denial of any attacks with chemical weapons against Iranian territories.

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said: As we said in our previous statement, Iran, through such claims, seeks to evade its commitments to hold direct negotiations designed to implement the Security Council resolution.

The spokesman added that the raids launched by the Iraqi Air Force in the past 3 days were confined to hitting oil installations linked to the aggressive Iranian war effort in southwestern Iran.

Yesterday, the spokesman denied Iranian claims that the Iraqi aircraft dropped chemical bombs on the town of Oshnoviyeh in northwestern Iran.

AL-QADISIYAH Cited on 'Vigilant' Armed Forces

JN0108170488 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 1, INA—Iraqi Armed Forces, cautious and vigilant, "are watching sly plots of the enemy with finger on the trigger and spiralling capability," AL-QADISIYAH paper said.

The paper added Iraqi forces would foil any aggressive attempt that the Iranian regime might resort to, taking advantage of the current political atmosphere, in order to boost its morale.

The military paper of Iraq said, in an editorial here today, the Iraqi fighter "is aware that he should not sheath his sword until peace is materialized and the Iranian rulers agree to put Resolution 598 into effect, through direct negotiations, reaching to establishing an agreement of comprehensive peace."

The Iranian regime announced its acceptance of the Security Council resolution not because "it has faith in this resolution but because it was forced to do so," AL-QADISIYAH said.

"The least that could be said of justifications that Iran announced to accept Resolution 598 is that they are calling for continuation of the war and rejecting the Security Council resolution in its integrity, [as received]" AL-QADISIYAH remarked.

The military paper added "there are no safeguards to guarantee that the Iranian regime would not use some of the Security Council resolution's paragraphs for some time to re-build its economic mainstays, repair its war machine, mend fences with countries of the world to acquire weapons and surmount crises facing it at home."

Many international parties, AL-QADISIYAH noted, wanted to see such an atmosphere made available to the Iranian regime and were (the parties) unwilling to see Iraq emerging from this war with well-knit construction.

AL-QADISIYAH added hat Iraq was not taken by surprise upon learning of the Iranian regime's acceptance of the Security Council resolution, for big victories realized by Iraq at warfronts astounded the Iranian rulers and opened eyes of the Iranian peoples to reality of the war.

Urging Iraqi forces to be more cautious and vigilant, AL-QADISIYAH said that Iraq managed, through its consistent peace pleas, to win world public opinion in favour of its just cause.

Reportage on Reactions to Jordanian Decisions

'Dual Loyalties' Discussed

TA0308093688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 88 p 12

["Excerpts" from interview with AL-NAHAR Editor in Chief 'Uthman al-Hallaq by Yehuda Litani on 2 August; place not given]

[Text] Q: There is a saying that the husband is always the last to know. Were you surprised that King Husayn is disengaging himself from the West Bank?

A: It was a surprise. I knew there were going to be measures, but I never thought they were going to be such drastic measures. But the writing on the wall was already there after the PLO and Jordan broke up in 1986. You could see that we were drifting toward some disengagement.

Q: What about your group in the West Bank, the people who believe that there should be an agreement between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians? Does it put you in a corner?

A: Actually we are not in a corner. We can tell the whole world that we told you so. We told you that there are dangers, we told you that we are on the path of disunity. We have been saying all this. And as far as we are concerned, our goal did not change, it will never change—we believe in Arab unity. We believe that the unity between the West Bank and the East Bank is the nucleus of a greater unity.

Q: Don't you feel neglected by the king?

A: No way. I believe it was the hardest decision the king had to take all his life. It's not so simple, after you sacrifice, after doing all you can for this cause, you are asked to drop it. The importance of it is that the Hashemites feel that they are the guardians of the Holy Places, and now they give up their claim for it.

Q: The intifada [uprising] was behind the king's step?

A: It was one of the reasons for it. We are foolish if we think that Jordan does not have influence in the territories. The truth is that we Palestinians have always had dual loyalties. We have our loyalty to our Palestinian cause, to the PLO, to our nationality, what we dream will be our entity and our state, and on the other hand we want the benefits of carrying Jordanian passports and being part of Jordan. I have always compared this to the PLO being our legitimate wife and on the other hand we have a girlfriend—we want to get everything out of her but discreetly and we don't want anybody to know about it. This relation should be a private affair. This has always been the double standard in our lives. I don't see that the dream of having our own state contradicts our unity with Jordan.

Q: And what about the famous saying of Arik Sharon that Jordan is Palestine?

A: The king's new move was also an answer to Sharon and all the right wing in Israel that Jordan is not going to pay the price of the 21 years of Israeli occupation of the territories. That the Palestinians have rights and Israel has to grant them their rights. But Jordan is not going to be the scapegoat for the demographic problem of Israel. His message for them was that Jordan is not Palestine.

Q: And what was his message to the Palestinians?

A: I think that the message of the king, if you want to call it a message, is in two parts. Number one, he is telling the PLO and the Americans and the Israelis—I have been carrying out for the last 21 years, or the last 38 years, me and King Abdallah before me, all the difficult duties of trying to bring about some sensible existence next to Israel. And now I am pulling out and let us see how you will manage without Jordan. Jordan has been doing all the difficult jobs and getting no appreciation. Number two, the Jordanians don't want Israel to feel that it can do whatever it wants with Jordan. Peres has done a disservice to Jordan by always talking about the Jordan option as if the Jordan option was so simple.

Q: What is the meaning of the new Jordanian steps for West Bankers?

A: We are now becoming like the Palestinians of Gaza. It is the Gazaization of the West Bank. The people of Gaza were envious of the West Bankers because of their prosperity, because of their passports—and now, are we going to be the Gazans of 1988? We are stateless now. What about our passports, what about our education? What about our matriculations? What about Palestinians looking for work in the Gulf states? Up to now we all were Jordanian citizens, they could not make a difference between East and West Bank. But now, who knows how they are going to treat us there in the Gulf countries?

Q: What about the new measures, what is actually about to happen now concerning passports, trade and commerce with the East Bank?

A: Now the burden is on the PLO. Are they able to carry this burden? Are they able to take on the challenge? Are they able to proceed? Are they able to say—yes, we will establish now a government in exile, and we will now recognize Israel, and we will now sit and negotiate and find a way to end occupation? Would they accept the Bassam Abu Sharif document? 'Arafat, the leader of the PLO, has to make some brave decisions. Now is his time. Is he a truly strong leader to lead the Palestinians like De Gaulle did or is he going just to be a survivor? A leader is supposed to lead. He sometimes is supposed to make

very unpopular decisions. Is he able to do it? An unpopular decision is a joint delegation with Jordan and going to the peace conference, is accepting (UN Resolution) 242 with qualifications, with conditions. But he has to accept the basis.

Q: And what about trade?

A: The same thing. Jordan is under no obligation to buy things they do not need. In the past they did so, not any more. What will be now with the municipalities? What will be with the Waqf (religious endowments and mosques)?

Q: What was Husayn's message to the Arab world?

A: He is telling the Arab world: I have done all I can, I have done all within my power to bring about a settlement to this problem. And you have not appreciated what I have done. So I am pulling out and let's see what you do without me. The same message to Israel, the same message to the Americans. But nothing is irreversible—it all depends on the players, the Americans, the PLO, the Israelis, the Arab states, in the Middle East nothing is irreversible. If 'Arafat, for instance will now ask the king to postpone all his new steps until the end of occupation, I am sure the king will agree.

Tehiya Annexation Plan Rejected

TA0408123988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has rejected Tehiya's proposal to impose Israeli sovereignty on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in a meeting with Tehiya members this morning, Shamir emphasized that the situation had not changed in the wake of King Husayn's speech and that one must take into account sensitivities and reactions around the world if Israel were to announce that it is imposing its sovereignty on those areas and abandoning the Camp David Accords. The prime minister reacted thus to the demands by Tehiya and Likud ministers to impose Israel's sovereignty on the territories.

Mr Shamir pointed out that Israel is in control of the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but it should be in better control. He said one should not get worked up over talk about a Palestinian government-in-exile.

Shamir's Office Cited

TA0408125788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Here is the first reaction to the Jordanian Government's announcement concerning the dismissal of some 20,000 of its officials in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister's office reacted by saying that the issue of salaries for these 20,000 officials has always been an internal Jordanian affair. Israel never requested that Jordan pay these salaries. Mr Shamir's office added that, therefore, this step will not change Israel's policy. This is yet another artificial step dividing the Palestinians into two categories; those living east of the Jordan River, and those living to the west. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

'PLO Option' Viewed

TA0408153888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel—live]

[Excerpts] We must start by saying that in the profusion of reactions and evaluations heard this week from the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry, no one anticipated that Husayn would go so far as dismissing his employees in Judaea and Samaria. There are those in Jerusalem who even today believe that the Jordanian step is tactical and that the king is waiting for a dramatic plea from the residents of the territories to revoke the dismissals. In any case, judging from responses we have gathered in the past 2 hours, the Jordanian decision has not altered previous views held by Shamir's and Peres' offices. [passage omitted]

A senior Foreign Ministry official assessed this evening that Husayn might be trying to open the door to a PLO option, whether for tactical reasons or because he believes that the PLO deserves a chance at this stage. In any case, the source believes that the PLO option does not stand a chance and that, sooner or later, it will become apparent to all the parties involved that there is no alternative to the Jordanian-Palestinian option.

Let us add at this point that if the Jordanian step is actually implemented, Jerusalem's policy makers will have to deal with the question of filling the dangerous vacuum created by Jordan's decision to gradually cut back its involvement in the territories.

Palestinians Comment

TA0408161088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Text] Approximately 14,000 people are currently employed by the Civil Administration. Some of them held various administrative positions even before 1967. These employees receive salaries from the Civil Administration and, in addition, have been paid salaries by the Jordanian Government. These workers will continue to be paid by the Civil Administration, but from now on will be deprived of their second salary. Those who have retired and stopped working for the Civil Administration, however, have so far continued to receive their retirement pensions from Jordan. They might be hurt by the Jordanian step, but it may be assumed that they have meanwhile found other occupations. Those who regularly receive pensions from Jordan will not be affected. [sentence as heard]

The step came as no surprise, says Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR. Upon hearing King Husayn's first announcement, Sinyurah pronounced the Jordanian option dead. The new step was expected to follow. This will indeed add to the hardships suffered by many Palestinians, but we are trying to form a state from scratch and it is only natural to suffer those hardships, said Sinyurah.

Rashad al-Shawwa, a Jordanian citizen who lives in Gaza, is disappointed by the step. It is the king's right to make any decision he wishes, he says. By halting payments and dismissing employees he is cutting the East Bank of the Jordan River from the West Bank. Judaea and Samaria are in fact no longer considered a part of Jordan, says Al-Shawwa.

West Bank Employees Interviewed

JN0408183688 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jordan today decided to pension off 21,305 Palestinian civil servants and cease monthly salaries for another 3,000 people. Colleague Ibrahim Shahid, our [West] Bank correspondent, recorded the following phone reactions with a number of the West Bank employees.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Shahid] Of course without naming names, we would like to hear your reaction to Jordan's decision which was issued today.

[Unidentified female civil servant] We sorely need the money. The PLO will not be able to give money to all the people. We cannot possibly go to work with the Israelis.

[Shahid] But how are you going to cope if you do not receive a salary from the Jordanian Government and if the PLO does not manage to transfer funds? Suppose you have children to support and health bills to pay and other commitments?

[Unidentified femal civil servant] Naturally I will have to go to work with the Israelis.

[Shahid] Hello, good evening. We are calling you first as a lawyer and second as an employee receiving a salary from Jordan. Having heard the Jordanian Government's decision pensioning off all the Jordanian civil servants and suspending the salaries, what is your initial reaction?

[Unidentified lawyer] It has a direct bearing on us in the West Bank. We respect the Jordanian Cabinet's decision, which was preceded by a political decision disengaging legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

[Shahid] In your capacity as a lawyer how do you see the move?

[Unidentified lawyer] The move is normal for those employees who have reached retirement age and have been in the civil service for 25 years. But for those who haven't been long in the service, their pensioning off will be a result of the recent moves.

[Shahid] There are quite a few employees who are not working. Take for example the lawyers. They do not prosecute before the Israeli courts, but have been receiving salaries from Jordan. Now the salaries will be cut off or the lawyers pensioned off. You are one of them. What are you going to do? How are you going to practice and how are you going to support your family?

[Unidentified lawyer] The lawyers were the first to boycott Israeli institutions. This is an old story. We did receive salaries from Jordan, but our aim has never been mercenary. It was more political and moral than material. We just want the Palestinian household to come together again.

[Shahid] Thank you.

[Unidentified lawyer] You are welcome.

[Shahid] Dr 'Abd al-Majid al-Zir. We are calling you in your capacity as the director of health in the Hebron Governorate rather than as city mayor. You must have heard the Jordanian Government's decision concerning the retirement of all civil servants as of 16 August. How did you receive the news?

[Al-Zir] Naturally it has affected me considerably. For the moment, all I can do is pray to God that we are spared every evil and all are inspired to follow the right path. As a private citizen and a public official in Hebron, I appeal to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government to keep things unchanged in compliance with the majority wish. I pray to God all will see the right way.

[Shahid] How do you see the salary suspension affecting people?

[Al-Zir] Significantly.

[Shahid] As many as 24,000 employees supporting as many households will be affected.

[Al-Zir] Yes, 24,000 families will suffer. We hope to God there will be a solution to this problem.

[Shahid] Do you think there are alternative options to provide salaries?

[Al-Zir] I don't know as yet about any arrangements. Maybe a solution will be worked out when the Jordanian Government and the PLO meet in Amman. God willing, they will come up with the right solution.

[Shahid] Thank you, Dr al-Zir.

[Al-Zir] You are welcome. [end recording]

Government-in-Exile Sought

TA0408182988 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Government-in-Exile, Questions"]

[Text] In the wake of Jordan's decision to relinquish sovereignty over the West Bank, speculation about the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, from the operational aspect, has created a real opening that could extend to the political and diplomatic fields on the Arab and international levels. The only Arab state that would oppose such a step, due to reasons relating to its stances toward the PLO, is Syria.

In most cases governments-in-exile are established by peoples who cannot exercise sovereignty over their own lands. If the human element, and the organized authority supported by this human element, exist parallel to a lack of the territorial element—as a result of the phenomena of occupation, war, colonialism, guardianship, or trusteeship—then the road would be opened for declaring the establishment of a government-in-exile. This device serves as a bridge to bring together the components of the new state based on the land, people, and organized authority.

In view of the political conditions that ensued after 1948 and 1967, and due to world recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, the time has come to announce the construction of this bridge. Up until this day the PLO's role has been limited. It has served to gather the Palestinian people around the melting pot of their legitimate national rights.

A government-in-exile would gain the recognition of the great majority of the Third World countries, including the Arab states, in addition to the East European countries and the Soviet Union. West European countries and the United States, with the exception of Greece, Spain, and maybe Italy and France, will definitely not recognize the government-in-exile.

Apart from this there are certain formalities relating to the relationship between the government-in-exile and its institutions, and the PLO and its institutions. For example, there is a PLO observer at the United Nations. Will there also be an observer for the government-in-exile? The same applies to the PLO's representatives in various parts of the world. Will these be replaced by representatives of the government-in-exile or will the offices of the government-in-exile be set up in addition to the PLO offices? There are also PLO departments and institutions such as the National Council and political, medical, social, educational, and other institutions. Will there be a separate parliament and different institutions for the government-in-exile?

Evidently these and other questions need to be answered, but putting forward the issue of a government-in-exile for discussion inside and outside Palestinian institutions has become an acute necessity imposed by recent developments. All these formalities can be resolved.

New Jordanian Cabinet Rumored

TA0408145788 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Aug 88 pp 1, 7

[Text] Amman—It has been learned from informed sources that the formation of a new Jordanian Cabinet will be announced within 48 hours. It will be headed by the present prime minister, Zayd al-Rifa'i, who has ended his consultations on the setting up of this government.

Among the cabinet's members will be Ahmad 'Ubaydat [former prime minister]—deputy prime minister and minister of defense; Mudar Badran [former prime minister]—deputy prime minister and minister of education; Muhammad Rasul Zayd al-Kaylani [previous head of the intelligence service and former Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia]—interior minister; 'Abdallah Salah [Jordan's UN delegate]—minister of foreign affairs; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah—minister of information; and Shawkat Mahmud [former occupied territories affairs minister]—minister of reconstruction and development. The new Jordanian cabinet will also include some other ministers who are vigorous on Jordanizing Jordan. It has been learned that only 5 out the 12 ministers will be of Palestinian origin.

The Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry will be abolished in the new cabinet and will be replaced by the Ministry of Reconstruction and Development. This ministry, which will be responsible for the affairs of Palestinian refugees, previously existed up until 1971.

Other Jordanian measures will also be announced according to royal decrees, including the appointment of Field Marshal Habis al-Majali as minister of the royal court. New changes in the diplomatic corps will be announced as well.

Jordan's 'Conquest' Undone

TA0508044788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says King Husayn's severing of ties with the West Bank undoes Jordan's unjustified military conquest of the territories 40 years ago. The prime minister adds that this Jordanian annexation was never recognized by the international community. Shamir was speaking last night to young leaders of Qeren Hayesod [United Jewish Fund] in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Now Jordan has undone the unjustified and unwarranted military conquest that took place 40 years ago. By its latest decision, King Husayn has divided the Palestinian Arabs into two nations or peoples:

those who live in Trans-Jordan will be from now Jordanians, and those who live west of the River Jordan will be Palestinians. Moreover, King Husayn wants to deliver these Palestinians into the hands of the PLO terrorists to struggle against Israel for their so-called liberation.

[Correspondent David Essing] Later, reporters asked Prime Minister Shamir for his reaction to King Husayn's cutting-off of salaries to West Bank civil servants.

[Shamir] Well, it's a further step of the king of Jordan. It is a continuation of his new policy to exercise pressure on the PLO and on the Palestinian Arabs. It will not have any impact on our policy.

[Essing] Shamir said Israel would not make up the shortfall for the civil servants. As for calls within the Likud for annexation, the prime minister replied: These are personal views only. Israel stands by the Camp David Accords—that is, negotiations with Jordan on peace and with the Palestinians on autonomy. [end recording]

No Funds for Salary Supplements

TA0508043788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The defense establishment held a discussion on a proposal to supplement the salary of civil servants in the territories in the wake of Husayn's announcement on stopping their pay, but decided not to intervene in the matter due to lack of funds, among other things. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that in the discussion, it was decided that there is no room to adopt the proposal under the present circumstances, even if this would bolster the pro-Jordanian elements in the territories. At the same time, the Civil Administration intends to find other ways to this end.

'Moment of Truth'

TA0508093288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 88 p 1

["Analysis" by Yehuda Litani: "Who Will Fill the Vacuum Jordan Left—Israel or PLO?"]

[Text] As in a poker game, King Husayn is asking the participants—the PLO, Israel, the Arab states and the U.S.—to show their hands. This is the moment of truth, and the king means business. He showed the rest of his hand yesterday, when he announced the dismissal of more than 20,000 Jordanian employees in the West Bank.

Now it is more than clear that the Jordanian monarch is serious about severing ties with the West Bank. It appears that neither Israel nor the PLO has fully grasped the fact that an almost total break is taking place.

It is not only the dismissal of tens of thousands of Jordanian employees, or the refusal to renew the Jordanian passports of the inhabitants, or even the rejection of agricultural exports from the West Bank. During the next few weeks we will be left with a vacuum that has to be filled either by Israel or by the PLO.

The official Israeli reactions yesterday were either supercilious or ill-informed, not taking into account that the Jordanian move was not tactical and that the Jordanian option is no longer an option, if it ever was. The PLO's supporters in the territories had a different reaction—some of them were furious at the king "who puts pressure on the Palestinians instead of helping them." Both sides are disappointed with Husayn and for practically the same reasons: They resent being obliged to face each other without an intermediary.

The Jordanian king, who used to speak from both sides of his mouth, is now indulging in plain talk—and in this part of the world that could be a dangerous thing. In the same way that his move was unpredictable, the reaction on the ground is also difficult to anticipate.

Although Husayn must have taken a negative reaction into consideration, his wish to prevent the intifada [uprising] from spreading across the Jordan led him to sacrifice his supporters on the West Bank, along with the territory and the institutions he poured so much money into over the years. It is more like a game of chess than a game of poker, with numerous pieces being sacrificed in order to save the king.

Now the PLO will learn the hard way, that, in the interim period at least, it needs a state such as Jordan to run the West Bank. And the lesson for the Israelis is that, with or without annexation, the centre for the Palestinians is Jerusalem, not Amman.

Possible Uprising in Jordan

TA0508105188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Aug 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Roni Shaqed, Tzvi Singer, Orli Azulay-Katz, 'Uzi Mahanaymi, and Washington correspondent Erol Guiney]

[Excerpt] Residents of the West Bank returning from a visit to Jordan yesterday warned that Palestinians in Jordan are currently sitting on a powder keg. They are bitter and are thinking of launching an "actual intifada" [uprising] in Jordan.

The West Bankers said that King Husayn had rejected the appeals of Palestinians to call off the measures he announced in the last few days. Husayn even rejected an appeal from Anwar al-Khatib, who is currently in Amman, and who is actually the most senior Jordanian civil servant in the territories.

Residents of the West Bank fear that the king might take further steps in the wake of the decision to fire the civil servants, such as canceling the Jordanian passports of the inhabitants of the territories. Visitors returning from

Jordan yesterday said that the Jordanian Government will not renew the passports of inhabitants of the territories and, henceforth, will not issue new passports. [passage omitted]

Rabin Meets 'Prominent Arab Figures' in Territories

TA0408170088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Our military affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe, reports that this week, too, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with prominent Arab figures from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The identity of the Arabs was not revealed. Political matters and Husayn's speech were discussed in this last meeting.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Youth Wounded in Al-Shati'

TA0408163888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A youth was slightly wounded in the leg in the Al-Shati' refugee camp this morning during a riot. Youths threw stones at IDF soldiers. The latter were forced to use firearms.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several incidents of stoning Israeli vehicles occurred today in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Curfew Imposed on Al-Burayj

TA0508045488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Excerpts] In the Gaza Strip, two soldiers were lightly wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp. They were hit by stones. [passage omitted] A curfew was imposed last night on the Al-Burayj camp in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Resident Arrested

TA0508100788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 88 p 24

[ITIM report]

[Text] A Gaza resident was arrested in Jaffa yesterday on suspicion of stabbing a taxi driver, Khalifa Zecharya, earlier in the day. Police said the motive was nationalistic, and added they suspect that the man also attacked another taxi driver in town last week.

Weapons Caches Uncovered in Local Arab Villages

TA0408114088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Caches containing weapons, army equipment, and explosives were recently discovered in several Arab settlements in the north. The searches were carried out by the Galilee police and the military police. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that several suspects were detained, including soldiers from the minorities [not further specified].

Shahal Fears 'Very Serious' Change in U.S. Policy

TA0508045788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal says he fears the growing involvement of Arab oil producers in the U.S. economy could be affecting U.S. policy. He says the importance of Arab oil for the Americans has made it easier for them to conclude large arms deals with Arab countries—for example, the recent deal with Kuwait. Shahal says the implications for U.S. policy toward Israel could be very serious.

Murphy's Upcoming Trip to Region Reviewed

TA0408162888 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Aug 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Murphy and the Attempt To Save What Can Be Saved"]

[Text] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, today begins his new trip to the region. During this trip he is to visit Cairo, Amman, Damascus, and Tel Aviv.

Undoubtedly Murphy's new trip, in both timing and content, poses large questions. This is so because it comes at a time when Jordan has officially announced the relinquishment of all its legal and administrative commitments in the West Bank through measures that were recently declared. Among these was the cancellation of the "Jordanian development plan" which was drawn up at the initiative and encouragement of the Americans. This "plan" was an attempt to bypass Palestinian legitimacy and abolish the PLO's role from the region's political map in a bid to provide an opportunity for the U.S. Administration to move freely and peddle its conspiratorial schemes.

Thus, first and foremost, Murphy's trip seeks to save what can be saved of U.S. plans and projects that were formulated by the U.S. Administration. None of these plans and projects have been realized because the U.S. Administration has remained blind to the realities produced by the uprising.

On the eve of the U.S. envoy's trip there is talk about the possibility that a meeting, either in Cairo or in another Arab state, will be held between him and Palestinian figures chosen by the PLO. Should this turn out to be true it would be added to the achievements accumulated by the uprising. Until only a short while ago, the U.S. Administration insisted on refusing to meet any Palestinian personality except on the basis of its own qualifications and in the time and place that it chooses.

What is beyond doubt is that this new U.S. move is not isolated from international moves. The Soviet Union occupies a central role in these moves within the framework of its efforts to convene an authoritative international conference attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

AL-NAHAR Comments

TA0408200588 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Does Murphy Have Anything New?"]

[Text] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is to make a visit to the Middle East region that will include Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Israel. This visit comes in the wake of talks he held in Geneva with his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Polyakov on the Middle East problem.

We, the Palestinians in the occupied territories, support all peace efforts by any party if the aim of these efforts is to end the occupation.

But what arouses astonishment and surprise about this visit is that it is taking place in the wake of the four visits undertaken by Secretary of State George Shultz himself. Shultz tried to persuade the parties to accept his initiative and collided with the known Israeli intransigence.

Shultz failed to persuade America's ally, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. Neither Shultz nor the U.S. President succeeded in convincing Shamir to budge from his positions rejecting the "international conference" concept as the basis for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The question now posed is this: Is it reasonable to believe that any progress will occur in the peace process when the United States and Israel are awaiting elections in 3 months time? The problem does not require repeated visits on various levels; rather, what it requires is decisions and seriousness in implementing these decisions. The principles are clear: On one hand America must define its positions on the nature of peace and the boundaries of Israel which the United States recognizes, and on the other the United States must recognize the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to their Palestinian land. The United States must also recognize the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO.

How can one believe U.S. intentions when the U.S. Senate adopts a resolution authorizing the U.S. President to transfer the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, bearing in mind that the Americans—government and people—are aware of the sensitivity of this issue not only in the Arab world but also in the Islamic world?

The Americans spared no effort in convincing the PLO that it should demonstrate a clear stance regarding the peace plans proposed in the arena. Then came Bassam Abu Sharif's document directed at the United States. This document defined a clear and comprehensive program on the PLO's readiness to make concessions in return for reaching a just and durable peace in the region. The document, however, received a lukewarm reception from the U.S. Administration. Hence, evidence indicates that Murphy's new trip is doomed to failure even before it begins.

Events in the region are moving at a quick pace, but the position of the Israeli Government, which is divided in two, and the U.S. position characterized by flabbiness leave no room for optimism.

Our hope was that the "uprising" in the occupied territories would form an incentive to push the peace process, but it seems that the Israeli leaders and the U.S. Administration will lose another peace opportunity for establishing peace in the region. How many of these peace opportunities have been lost in the distant and near past for the same reasons?

But the recurring question is: What can Murphy's briefcase possibly hold that would be a cause for optimism?

Shamir Congratulates Dukakis for Party Nomination

TA2907154088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today sent a congratulatory message to Michael Dukakis, the Democrats' presidential nominee. Mr Shamir wrote to Dukakis that his nomination for the Presidency is yet another demonstration of U.S. democracy, with which the people in Israel greatly identify. Your comments on defense and support for Israel and its craving for peace win a great deal of appreciation in Israel, the prime minister wrote to Dukakis.

Moscow Delegation Begins Work From Dutch Embassy

TA0208141188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Aug 88 p A1

[Report by Europe correspondent Sha'ul Ben-Hayim]

[Text] A long line of Jews seeking exit visas has formed outside the Dutch Embassy in Moscow during the stay of the Israeli consular delegation in the building. The Israelis are piggybacking with two Dutch diplomats and four local secretaries who work at the consular department of the Israeli interests office.

Due to lack of office space the six members of the Israeli delegation will be forced to share one room. Because of the crowded conditions some of the work is being conducted outside the building, where secretaries distribute the applications for exit visas and collect them after they have been filled out.

"We walked among the people waiting in line outside the building," said Dan Megido, "and those of us who speak Russian talked to them. Some of them knew Hebrew."

No meeting has yet been set between the Israelis and Soviet Foreign Ministry officials. "It is up to the Soviet hosts," noted the delegation members. The delegation has not yet gone to look at the Israeli Embassy building which has been empty for 21 years.

Warned on 'Unseemly' Profile

TA0308085588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by diplomatic affairs correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has instructed the head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, Meron Gordon, to lower his media profile, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

Officials in Jerusalem believe that the massive media scrutiny accorded the delegation since it arrived in Moscow last Thursday has displeased the Soviets.

The officials pointed to the "disparity" between the attention given by the foreign press corps in Moscow and by the Israeli media, and the scant mention it has received in the Soviet press. The officials said this was "unseemly," and risked incurring the displeasure of the Soviets.

Some sources also regretted the fact that Israeli media had widely projected an enthusiastic and emotional welcome for the delegation from Soviet Jews, when Soviet Jews had yet to show much interest in the delegation's presence in Moscow.

Following a debate on the matter in the Foreign Ministry yesterday, Gordon was told to keep out of the media limelight for a while. [passage omitted]

First Meeting With Soviets Held

TA0408093588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Aug 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by correspondent in Europe Sha'ul Ben-Hayim]

[Excerpt] The members of the Israeli diplomatic delegation to the Soviet Union visited the Foreign Ministry in Moscow for the first time yesterday.

Accompanied by the Dutch charge d'affaires, they called on Oleg Abramenko, deputy chief of the Consular Administration at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were introduced to those of his aides who deal with problems related to Israel and stipulated the channels of communications for their work. "It was a very important meeting," stated Meron Gordon, the head and spokesman of the delegation in a telephone call last night, "and one should not forget that it was the first time since bilateral relations were severed that diplomats of the two countries held a meeting on the premises of the Soviet Foreign Ministry."

Questions concerning visas or the Israeli Embassy building were not raised in the meeting, and will be discussed in future sessions. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry 'Furious' Over Flights to RSA

TA0408113788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] While Western countries have been discontinuing flights to South Africa and many countries have been canceling South African Airlines' [SAA] landing permits, El Al, under pressure from Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu, approached the RSA Government with a request to add an additional weekly flight.

The Foreign Ministry is furious over the request, which came immediately after the resignation of Political Director General Yosi Beilin, who had for a long time prevented such a move.

There are currently two weekly flights between Israel and South Africa: one by El Al and another by SAA. The airlines occasionally add flights to meet the vast demand, particularly by South African Jews who later fly on to the United States. At the same time, however, Israel has so far been careful not to expand the volume of aviation ties with South Africa on a permanent basis. Fears were voiced recently that a U.S. Administration led by Dukakis, in which Jesse Jackson would play a major role, would punish Israel for its relations with South Africa and that such a move could only exacerbate the problem. Jerusalem also fears that the Scandinavian countries, which are extremely sensitive about relations with South Africa, might take measures against El Al.

Commenting on the issue, the Transportation Ministry spokesman said that the increase in the number of flights is meant to improve services to passengers on this route, most of whom are Jews coming to Israel. The spokesman added that such a move is in no way connected to plans to lower the profile of relations with South Africa, but is merely a service that El Al is offering its passengers.

Dr Alon Li'el, director of the South African desk at the Foreign Ministry, said in reaction that an increase in the number of flights would be incompatible with the cabinet decision of last March to limit relations with South Africa, although the decision does not specifically mention aviation ties.

According to Li'el, such a move would impair Israel's public relations abroad, particularly in view of the fact that most Western airlines have restricted or even totally stopped ties with South Africa. Li'el added that the problem of Jewish passengers could be solved through other means, and that El Al had shown understanding about the problem in its contacts with the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Change Seen in Attitude Toward South Africa

TA0508112488 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] A recent series of measures taken by Israel point to a change emerging in Jerusalem's attitude toward South Africa.

Ten months after the cabinet decided to reduce relations with and impose sanctions on the Pretoria government, DAVAR has learned the following facts:

—Johan Viljoen, South Africa's new ambassador in Israel, was granted an audience with Yosi Hadas, the Foreign Ministry assistant director general. Following the cabinet decision, the Foreign Ministry has usually sent junior officials to meetings with representatives of the South African Embassy. Most meetings were held with the charge d'affaires, while the former ambassador was boycotted.

—The South African desk, which had for the last 2 years been under the personal supervision of Political Director General Yosi Beilin—who thus sought to illustrate the importance he attached to the reduction of relations with South Africa—has once again been placed under the jurisdiction of the Asia, Africa, and Oceania Division headed by Hadas.

—An official Israeli delegation headed by Efrayim Dovrat, the Finance Ministry's assistant director general, will shortly depart for South Africa to ratify the agreement on economic cooperation between the two countries. This will be the first agreement the countries will have signed since the cabinet decision not to strike any new agreements with South Africa.

—El Al is going to add another weekly flight to Johannesburg. Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir supports this move, which also enjoys the approval of Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu.

—Despite Tamir's recommendation, the Transportation Ministry refuses to grant permission to Lesotho's airline for one weekly flight to Israel. The airline submitted the request with the backing of several travel agents, but under pressure from El Al and South Africa's national airline, which are afraid of competition on a similar route, Minister Corfu has been putting off a debate on the request.

Sharon Rejects Permanent Trade Attache for Poland

TA0408144188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Aug 88 p 10

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday rejected the request of Tadeusz Kwiatkowski, the head of the Polish interests office in Israel, that Israel send a permanent trade attache to Warsaw. Sharon argued that the current volume of trade between the two countries does not justify the assignment of a special attache to Poland. [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 04 Aug 88, in a report by Yitzhaq Dish on page two in section B, reports that "Sharon promised to examine the proposal."]

Mr Kwiatkowski said that in July alone, 5,500 visas were issued to Israelis wishing to visit Poland, an unprecedented number since the break-up of relations between the two countries in 1967.

Sharon said in the meeting that there is room to expand bilateral trade, and proposed mutual exchanges of delegations of industrial and agricultural experts. Sharon added that academic institutions in both countries should increase cooperation in research.

At the same time, Sharon said, trade between Poland and Israel must be based on reciprocity. He noted that the two countries now have an opportunity to market their products to third countries. [passage omitted]

Peru Thanked for Foiling Abu Nidal Attack

TA0208101888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Lima, the capital of Peru, has thanked the Peruvian police for foiling a planned attack by members of the Abu Nidal organization. The terrorists planned to attack Israeli diplomats and Peruvian civilians. The three terrorists were arrested in Lima late last week. All three have carried out attacks in the past. One of them participated in planning the murders at the Rome and Vienna airports 3 years ago. In Lima, they also planned to attack the U.S. Consulate, a synagogue, and an Israeli-owned travel agency.

'Secret' Poll Shows Openness to Talks With PLO

TA0408093888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Aug 88 p 7

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Text] A secret poll commissioned by the Alignment's election headquarters reveals an astonishing and unexpected fact: the public has grown more receptive to the idea of contacts with the PLO. The poll's unequivocal conclusion is that the taboo against contacts with the PLO has actually been removed.

Some 57 percent of those polled said that they are prepared to conduct negotiations with the PLO on the condition that it drop the Palestinian Covenant and renounce terrorism.

Some 33 percent of those who do not object to negotiations with the PLO said they were Likud voters, while 60 percent of them said they were Alignment voters.

The Labor Party does not plan to make any use whatsoever of these findings or to change its campaign line. Labor Party officials were astounded by the finding because they had assumed that most of the public considers the word PLO obscene.

Commander Says Syria Preparing for War
TA0208045488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] We wake up this morning to a warning from Major General Yosef Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, that according to all indications, Syria is actively preparing for another war. Maj Gen Peled stressed that maintaining the IDF's deterrent capability might prevent a Syrian attempt to attack us. The commander of the Northern Command made his remarks in a meeting with Labor Party leaders who toured the Golan Heights yesterday. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

Motivation and military capability make the Syrian Army in the Golan Heights a real war threat, Maj Gen Peled said. He said the clearest indication of Syria's intentions is the emphasis the Syrian educational system places on war with Israel. They speak about the liberation of the Golan Heights, Maj Gen Peled said. They also have other objectives, including the Hula Valley, Metulla, and Tiberias.

All Syrian units damaged in the Lebanon war have been rehabilitated. The MiG-29 is already being flown by Syrian pilots. It is not yet operational, but that is a question of time. It is not just another good plane flying in the region, Maj Gen Peled stressed. It significantly improves the Syrian Air Force's capability. The T-72 tank is not the T-72 we knew in the Lebanon war; it is now a sophisticated and upgraded tank, he said.

Syria's difficult economic situation is an excellent reminder of its intentions, Maj Gen Peled said. When a country in terrible economic straits deliberates about whether to buy a loaf of bread or a revolver and finally choses the revolver, we have to find out why that is. Nonetheless, a war with the Syrians is not inevitable, he said. The IDF's deterrent capability is not just a slogan. They know a lot about us in Damascus, the general said. They follow each maneuver in the Golan Heights. If we demonstrate a high level of military capability, they will realize that any attempt to attack us will end in failure.

IDF Using New Measures To Fight Chemical Warfare
TA0308060888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The IDF chief medical officer, Brigadier General Yehuda Danon, says that in the last year the army has begun using pills which create pharmacological immunity against chemical warfare. He also said the IDF has concluded research and began producing a new injection against chemical weapons. Every soldier in the field will be equipped with the injection, which can be kept for a long period without refrigeration or special storage. The chief medical officer said that the goal is to equip the entire army, both frontline and rear units, against chemical warfare. In an interview with our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on the occasion of Medical Corps Day, Dr Danon said that the army introduced the program because no country or international organization has condemned or tried to stop the spread of chemical weapons. This prompted the need to prepare for this kind of warfare.

On another matter, Gen Danon said that the IDF is also preparing the civilian emergency hospitals, whose teams have undergone special training and which have received instructions on a uniform course of activity.

Gen Danon also said that for the first time, female IDF physicians will be able to join in field activities in enemy territory. Female physicians have been included in airborne evacuation for several months now, joining in the activities of all the forces.

Replying to a question on AIDS in the IDF, the chief medical officer said that the problem is almost nonexistent. Out of the 250,000 soldiers examined in the past 2 and ½ years, only 4 were found to be AIDS carriers, and these were discharged.

Rabin Rejects Subordination of Civil Administration
TA0408105988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently rejected a proposal raised by the IDF to merge the Civil Administration and the military government in the territories. According to the IDF proposal, the Civil Administration would have been made subordinate to the army in the territories, although it would not have been abolished.

The IDF formulated this proposal following duplications and unnecessary complications in the concurrent operations of the two bodies during the first months of the uprising in the territories. The two bodies currently enjoy a great deal of autonomy and do not always coordinate their work, and this creates hitches and friction. Both IDF commanders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the heads of the Civil Administration bear the rank of brigadier general. Consequently, none of the four officers operating in conjunction in the territories can enforce his authority on his colleague in the parallel body.

This impairs work, and on more than one occasion the IDF commander and the head of the Civil Administration have been forced to bring their case before the regional commander for a decision. The IDF proposed overcoming the problem by making the Civil Administration subordinate to the military commander in the area.

After considering the issue, Minister Rabin decided to reject the proposal, despite its operational advantages and its likely benefits to the IDF's activities in the territories. The proposal was rejected apparently because it was assumed that such a move would be construed in the world as an Israeli retreat from the Camp David Accords, which talked about moving toward the establishment of autonomy in the territories.

Making the Civil Administration subordinate to the military commander would have been seen as the de facto abolition of the Civil Administration and as a step backward from the current situation in the territories. The existence of the Civil Administration provides—at least from a certain perspective—the semblance of an intention to proceed toward autonomy.

Group Formed To Protect Disarmed Jewish Settlers

TA0308152888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by correspondent in the territories]

[Excerpt] Inhabitants of Hebron's Jewish Quarter yesterday announced the establishment of the "association for the protection of Hebrew arms," whose purpose will be to protect those Jewish inhabitants of the territories whose weapons have been confiscated by the security forces. As may be recalled, there was an incident in downtown Hebron 2 days ago in which Arab youngsters threw stones at No'am Arnon, the spokesman of Gush Emunim, and at Yo'av Peniri of Hebron. Arnon caught an Arab youth, hit him with the butt of his gun, and then shot in the air. Later, he brought the bruised Arab youth to the military government in Hebron.

Arnon was detained for questioning and was later released, but his personal weapon was confiscated. The incident caused an uproar in Hebron. Tehiya Knesset Member Eli'ezer Waldman, who is also a resident of Qiryat Arba', approached Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, asking him to return Arnon's gun at once. At the same time, the Jewish residents of Hebron decided to set up an association which would "locate Jews whose weapons have been confiscated" and provide them with alternate security arrangements. [passage omitted]

Leaflets Urge IDF Soldiers To Desert

TA0108085088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Palestinian activists in Nabulus distributed a Hebrew-Arabic leaflet signed by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," calling on IDF soldiers to desert, and urging a "peaceful and just solution" to the conflict in the territories by establishing a Palestinian state beside Israel, local sources reported.

The leaflet tells soldiers that "your government is using you to do to us what the Nazis did to your people-....Refuse to serve in the occupied territories, return to your country and struggle to change the thinking of your government, which cares nothing about the price our peoples are paying."

The leaflet assures soldiers that the uprising "does not aim to destroy your state or your people," but rather to achieve Palestinian rights and establish an independent state. "We are not terrorists," it says, "we want to free ourselves from occupation and achieve independence."

The choice facing Israelis and Palestinians is either persistent war "with no victor" or a just peace achieved through an international conference, the leaflet concludes. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Soviet 'Dropout' Rate

A total of 92 percent of Soviet Jewish emigrants opted not to come to Israel during July, the highest monthly rate since the beginning of the year, the [Immigration] Absorption Ministry announced yesterday. Of 1,592 would-be immigrants, only 132 came to this country. Minister of Immigration and Absorption Ya'aqov Tzur said that the high dropout rate could endanger the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union. [Text] [*TA0108101188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 88 p 10*]

Heroin Seized

Ten grams of heroin were seized in an Israeli sailor's car last Thursday. The 28-year-old man claimed that the drug was for his own personal use. He and two other suspects were arrested by the police, but were later released on bail. [Summary] [*TA0308130788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 31 Jul 88 p 12*]

Decision Made To Remove Martial Law Regulations

JN0408173488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 4 Aug

[Text] Amman, 4 Aug (INA)—The Jordanian Government decided today to rescind the martial administration regulations for occupied territory affairs. These regulations, issued in the wake of the 1967 aggression, organize the economic, financial, administrative, social, and educational affairs and issues in the occupied territory. The abrogation of these regulations comes on the occasion of disengaging the administrative and legal relationship with the occupied West Bank."

Sources 'Expected' Cancellation

JN0508082888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR, news agencies—Jordanian sources have expected the cancellation of the martial law administration regulations for the occupied territory affairs. These regulations were issued in the wake of the 1967 aggression and involve the organization of administrative, economic, educational, and social affairs in the occupied Arab territories. The Jordanian sources expect these regulations to be canceled as of today, Friday.

The sources also expected the cancellation of the higher ministerial committee in charge of these affairs. The committee is chaired by the prime minister and includes a number of senior officials. The cancellation of these regulations comes in the wake of the recent Jordanian measures disengaging the administrative and legal relations between the two banks of Jordan.

Reported Agreement To Transfer Duties to PLO

JN0408152588 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 3 Aug 88 p 14

[Text] Amman, AL-QABAS—A Jordanian official has said there is an agreement between Jordan and the PLO to form Jordanian-Palestinian committees to agree on the transfer of responsibilities in all fields from Jordan to the PLO in the West Bank. He also said that the aim behind forming these committees is to discuss all details to ensure the regular fulfillment of all obligations.

Cabinet Retires Civil Servants in West Bank

JN0408120488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In compliance with the decision to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the occupied West Bank—consistent with the wishes of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—the Council of Ministers, in a session held this morning under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, decided the following:

1. To retire all Jordanian civil servants working at the official Jordanian departments and institutions in the West Bank as of 16 August 1988. The Jordanian Government will preserve all pension rights of those servants. Their monthly retirement salaries will be paid fully according to the rules of the civil retirement law.

2. To freeze the services of the civil servants who spent less than 20 years but over 15 in service until they complete 20 years of service after which they will be referred to pension allowances according to the rules of the Civil Service Law as of 16 August 1988.

3. To terminate the service of classified civil servants who have been in office less than 15 years as of 16 August 1988. All pension payments will be refunded to them. They will also be paid compensation equal to 1-month's salary for every year of service.

4. To terminate the service of unclasified civil servants and those employed according to contracts as of 16 August 1988. All dues, compensations, and remunerations will be paid to these civil servants.

5. To terminate the service of those employed in independent corporations as of 16 August. These employees will obtain all their remunerations and compensations according to the valid regulations in the corporations where they used to work.

6. Civil servants and employees of the Awqaf and the Chief Qadi Department shall be exempted from this decision since these two bodies embody Islamic cultural presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and also due to the Islamic historic responsibility they are shouldering by safeguarding all Islamic places under occupation and by following up the supervision of projects to renovate and protect both the holy Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Al-Rifa'i, PLO Representative Confer in Amman

JN0408182388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office today 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and PLO representative in Amman. They reviewed the fraternal ties between Jordan and the PLO. Al-Yahya conveyed the desire of a PLO delegation to visit Jordan.

The prime minister informed him that the Jordanian Government welcomes the fraternal Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan and the date of the visit will be fixed during the next few days.

Al-Khasawinah on Motives Behind West Bank Move

JN0508102288 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Aug 88 pp 20, 17

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has stated that the Jordanian decision to dismantle the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank has affirmed beyond doubt that Jordan is neither competing with the PLO to represent the Palestinian people nor seeking to create alternative Palestinian leaderships.

Interviewed by the BBC correspondent in Amman, the information minister stressed that Jordan will continue to extend all possible aid to Palestinians and will deal with all matters in this spirit and in cooperation and agreement with the PLO.

Regarding the motives behind Jordan's decision to break its ties with the West Bank, Dr al-Khasawinah said: These measures should be viewed as basically political. He said: During the past 20 years we held a certain viewpoint and the PLO held another. Jordan believed that according to international law the West Bank is an occupied Jordanian territory and Jordan must restore it through an integrated peace process. Therefore, we reached the formula of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will participate in an international peace conference to return these lands to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in an integrated peace process. The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship will then be organized in a manner that preserves the Palestinian and Jordanian identity.

The information minister added: We have repeatedly explained to the brothers in the PLO that His Majesty King Husayn does not aspire to annex the West Bank in order to expand the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jordan will never think of canceling the Palestinian identity. Despite this clarification, the brothers in the PLO still insist on asking us to recognize them as the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, whether in the peace process or in the struggle to restore Palestinian territory and establish a state on it.

At the recent Algiers Arab summit, His Majesty King Husayn fully explained this historical background and all its dimensions and dangers. Nevertheless, the brothers in the PLO and all Arab countries insisted on the Palestinian viewpoint. We accepted that with pleasure.

Asked if he believed that the so-called Jordanian option has now ended, the information minister said: In our writings and in Jordanian diplomacy we do not use the phrase Jordanian option. We use a specific diplomatic term. That is, the peace process and the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. His Majesty King Husayn was clear and firm in his speech when he said that Jordan is a basic party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the peace process and will continue its struggle and efforts with the other Arab parties.

Asked whether the Jordanian decision will have an adverse effect on the chances of the Israeli Labor Party's success in the coming elections, Dr al-Khasawinah said: We do not believe that these measures have anything to do with the chances of success of the Israeli Labor Party or the Likud Parties. In the meantime, however, we hope that the Israeli peace forces will grow stronger and their status be further enhanced. We hope that forces which view the Arab-Israeli conflict from a historical perspective will emerge. We also hope that a peaceful settlement based on withdrawal, recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and establishment of peace on firm and just bases will serve all parties.

King Telephones Al-Asad, Saddam Husayn

JN0408195188 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] His majesty the king this evening called Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad by telephone. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of Arab issues.

His majesty also telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and discussed with him issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Papers Comment on West Bank Disengagement

Beirut Press Criticized

JN3007102988 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jul 88 p 24

[Chief Editor Mahmud al-Kayid "Spotlight" column: "Satisfaction and Indignation"]

[Text] As expected, there have been varied reactions to the Jordanian decision to cancel the development plan for the occupied territories. A first party—two Lebanese leftwing papers, AL-SAFIR and AL-NIDA'—denounced the decision and expressed skepticism as to its motives and objectives. These two papers viewed the decision as "a new conspiracy against the cause". A second party diminished the importance of the decision, claiming that the cancellation of the development plan is not, from a practical viewpoint, a crucial decision. This party includes Sari Nusaybah and Ibrahim al-Daqqaq from Jerusalem. But the third party—the largest and most important—calmly and objectively received the decision and placed it within its proper context. This party includes Salah Khalaf and Faruq Qaddumi.

Commenting on the Jordanian decision, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said this measure will not affect the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, that the PLO bases its relations with Jordan on the future, and that there can only be relations based on unity. He also said that the PLO approaches Jordan on the basis of fateful, fraternal, and historical relations.

PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi also spoke in the same positive spirit. This clearly indicates that the PLO understands the reasons Jordan resorted to such a measure—reasons which were contained in the official Jordanian statement.

We value the stand of the party which has assimilated the national and pan-Arab dimensions of the decision and which has not digressed to the left or right. We reproach the narrow-minded party which tried to cast doubts on the decision while it is still fresh. We would like to ask the following question: Has not the development plan that Jordan announced brought about many controversies and differences of opinion? Did not AL-SAFIR and AL-NIDA' call for the cancellation of "this suspect plan" and did not their columnists vilify this plan?

What's new now? Jordan wants to put matters within their proper context, dispel any worries or doubts, and wants to end any rivalry with the PLO, the Palestinian people's represenative. You in Beirut, what upsets you so much that you express such unjustified and unwarranted anger and extremism?

TIMES: Move 'Unambiguous'

JN0108070788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Need of the Day"]

In his address to the country Sunday, his majesty the king has unequivocally declared Jordan's honourable stand towards the Palestinian problem within the framework of the sacred historical unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and the Kingdom's status as the Arab state with the longest confrontation line with Israel. Rarely had an Arab leader reached out to his people in such unambiguous terms, setting issues in their right perspective and explaining the circumstances for decisions. While complying with the wishes of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and abandoning development programmes for the occupied territories and dissolving Parliament, Jordan has also enhanced the national orientation of the Palestinian people and underscored Palestinian identity.

There can no longer be any excuse for any party to raise ill-conceived questions over the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle and lay red herrings on the Arab quest to regain usurped land and rights. Israel can no longer hang onto its stubborn refusal to accept realities. It will have to make amends to its self-imposed inability to appreciate the aspirations of oppressed people for freedom and dignity and its blind faith in military might.

Leaving no room whatsoever for any ambiguity over the unity of the one Jordanian family, the king has also quashed all speculations of some linkage between Jordan's legal and administrative disengagement from the occupied territories and the status of the Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin. At the same time, the king's reminder that national unity is the foundation and basis for Jordan's stability and security, makes it incumbent upon every citizen, irrespective of origin, to live up to his national responsibilities and to reinforce the unique consolidated march of the country. Indeed, the strength of the society lies in cohesion and brotherhood among its people and that is the need of the day.

Israeli, U.S. Reaction Viewed

JN0408075488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "All the Parties Before Their Heavy Responsibilities"]

[Text] Analyses of the various political and media circles all over the world agree that His Majesty King Husayn's historic speech on Sunday has made all the parties concerned with the Middle East crisis aware of their direct responsibilities, and forced them to look for an appropriate way out of the new situation created by the decision.

Although some parties—which the Jordanian decision has strongly shaken and whose classic concepts about peace and a final settlement have been destroyed by the decision—still do not recognize the depth of the changes in the political reality in the Middle East in the wake of this important speech. This does not mean, however, that the reactions of these parties represent the final interaction that was accelerated by the decision.

A quick look at the successive various and conflicting Israeli reactions to his majesty's speech provides proof of the strong effect of the speech. It shook Israeli political concepts that have existed for years. It also strongly confused the Israeli political establishment—already hit by the uprising that has been going on for 8 months.

The various statements by senior U.S. officials, which are generally characterized by stubborness, also represent a strong echo of the Jordanian stand, which, in one blow, undermined the entire political ground on which Washington stands and on which its Middle East initiatives and diplomacy were founded. U.S. diplomacy always preferred to view the facts from an Israeli perspective and to make its political moves harmonious with the wishes of Shamir, Rabin, and other occupation leaders.

The massive echo of his majesty's speech in all circles, capitals, and public opinion clearly indicates that the Jordanian policy enjoys seriousness, honesty, and respect. It emphasizes beyond any doubt the importance of the Jordanian role and the high status of this country within the framework of the existing equations and the proposed solutions, especially since Jordan was, is, and will remain a country involved in peace and an indispensable party in any process to look for peace or progress toward a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in this very sensitive region of the world.

'Four Possibilities' After Dissolution of House

JN3108153088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
31 Jul 88 pp 1, 17

["News Analysis" by parliamentary affairs editor: "Four Possibilities After the Dissolution of the House of Representatives"]

[Excerpt] In accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 34 of the Jordanian Constitution, a royal decree was issued dissolving the House of Representatives yesterday.

According to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 73 of the Constitution, general elections should be held so that the new House can meet in an extraordinary session within 4 months after its dissolution. If no elections are held in 4 months, the dissolved House will regain all its constitutional powers and will immediately convene as if it were not dissolved. It will then continue its work until a new House is elected.

However, Paragraph 4 of Article 73 gives his majesty the king the right to postpone the general elections if there are compelling circumstances under which the cabinet believes no elections should be held.

Constitutionally, the following are the possibilities after the dissolution of the House of Representatives:

1. Legislating a new election law for the House of Representatives to replace Law No 22 of 1986 so that parliamentary elections will be held only in the East Bank and no deputies will then be chosen from the West Bank constituencies.

2. The second possibility is that a royal decree might be issued within the next 4 months postponing elections until further notice in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 73.

3. The formation of a national consultative council like that formed on 20 April 1978.

4. It is also possible, in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Article 73 of the Constitution, that his majesty the king will, upon a cabinet decision, reinstate the dissolved House and call it into session. This House will exist and exercise its full constitutional powers as of the date the royal decree reinstituting it is issued.

In accordance with the 1976 constitutional amendment, the following phrase was added to the abovementioned Paragraph 5: If compelling circumstances requiring the amendment of the Constitution emerge during the postponement period, his majesty the king, in accordance with a cabinet decision, will call the previous House of Representatives into an extraordinary session for this purpose.

As for the Senate, it will continue to exist, but will suspend sessions during the absence of the House of Representatives, according to Paragraph 2 of Article 66 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Hostage Release Expected 'Without Conditions'

NC0508151688 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS has quoted a Western diplomatic source, who refused to reveal his identity, as saying that the foreign hostages being held in Lebanon are expected to be released without conditions and soon. The source attributed his expectation to the policy of openness toward the West which Iran began to pursue recently after its policy of isolation from the West had cost it a heavy price, as the paper put it.

The source added that the Canadian Government has decided to participate in efforts to secure the release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Lebanese Forces Comment on Murphy's Visit

NC0408194388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] An official source in the Lebanese Forces has denied that the Lebanese Forces or President al-Jumayyil submitted any specific list of names of presidential candidates to the Americans, explaining that the names of all possible candidates were discussed during the contacts.

The official source expressed satisfaction with the results of Richard Murphy's visit to Lebanon, and confidence that this visit will yield positive results which will help in holding the presidential election on schedule and in electing a mutually agreed-upon president.

A source in East Beirut said that Murphy listened in Bikfayya Palace to the views of the Lebanese regime regarding the mechanism of the contacts concerning the presidential election. No specific names of candidates were discussed.

The source added that it was understood from Murphy's remarks that the U.S. objective at this stage is to promote inter-Lebanese and Lebanese-Syrian contacts to agree upon a candidate.

The source affirmed that the president and his party did not submit any names, but focused on the mechanism of the contacts as a first step. Murphy, the source noted, felt the eastern areas' united stand regarding the presidential elections.

Al-Huss Interviewed on Election Prospects

PM0508090788 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Aug 88 pp 28-29

[Interview with Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by Muwaffaq Madani in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Madani] What kind of candidate, president, or era is expected in Lebanon?

[Al-Huss] There are many options and possibilities, and these will determine whether the next president will be a military or a civilian one. If he is to be military, options will be confined to a few names. But if he is to be a civilian, this will raise a question: Should he be a president of consensus or confrontation?

[Madani] And which seems likely to you?

[Al-Huss] With regard to a president of consensus, there are numerous options and names; differences between them are limited.

[Madani] So Your Excellency Prime Minister, you expect a president who will achieve consensus among the Lebanese?

[Al-Huss] It is likely that he will be a president of consensus. There is a regional, international, and local situation which urges that the constitutional elections be held peacefully as scheduled. And in order to do that peacefully we must overcome divisions and eliminate political and security contact lines among factions.

Penetration of the political contact line will be the inevitable result if there is no agreement on eliminating security contact lines within the administrative Beirut plan, which is limited in comparison with the greater Beirut plan. [passage omitted]

[Madani] What possibilities are there at the security level?

[Al-Huss] There should be a plan at the Beirut level, provided that the military situation, which is still active and could lead to a security plan being imposed at the Beirut level, is eliminated. If security developments in the [southern] suburb [of Beirut] and the camps continue until the elections, they could affect the nature of the election battle. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Do you expect surprises, along the lines of what you expected before the Israeli invasion in 1982, which would disturb the election balances?

[Al-Huss] Israel and its agents will not necessarily embark on an operation similar to the 1982 invasion. But there are many possibilities.

[Madani] Do you expect certain developments in the Palestinian camps which could affect the elections?

[Al-Huss] The Palestinian camps have their influence in the Lebanese environment.

[Madani] It seems that the possibility of preparing for the presidential elections via the formation of a transitional government has weakened.

[Al-Huss] The possibility of forming a transitional government has not been dropped; it has merely weakened. The reason is that President Amin al-Jumayyil has opened the

door to his contacts with Syria. It is no longer possible to take action in connection with a governmental issue before Syrian approval is sought. The Syrians are not now in a position to support the formation of a transitional government, since that must be preceded by a political process.

[Madani] Do you expect alliances to be established between political leaders in the eastern and western areas [of Beirut] before the presidential elections?

[Al-Huss] Possibly. Dialogue and meetings are being held via the common denominator, Syria. But I do not expect a program to be agreed.

[Madani] Has the United States ceased its contacts over Lebanon, which have continued for 6 months?

[Al-Huss] No. These contacts have not ceased, but they are no longer useful during the election stage. However, the Syrians will not stop their contacts with the Americans so long as there are wider issues than the Lebanese issue. If the Lebanese parties decide to proceed with the political reform program, I expect a U.S. envoy to embark on a tour of the region after the new president is elected. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Isn't there U.S.-Syrian agreement on a potential candidate, after 6 months of contacts?

[Al-Huss] (laughing) I do not think so. [passage omitted]

[Madani] You said that the war in Lebanon has ended. But the war is still continuing in the South, the suburb, and in the camps. Are you still convinced that the war in Lebanon has ended?

[Al-Huss] Who is fighting whom? I no longer see a war raging among the main parties in the Lebanese arena. That is why I said that the war has ended. What is happening now is war within the one group, whether in the southern suburb or the Palestinian camps.

Inter-Palestinian fighting in the camps has nothing to do with the inter-Lebanese war. Inter-Maronite fighting, inter-Druze fighting, inter-Sunni fighting, and inter-Shi'ite fighting are all wars within groups. It is not a Lebanese-Lebanese war in the familiar sense of the word.

These wars are fought over decisionmaking positions within every group, merely to select their representatives in the national dialogue. The war among the major Lebanese factions and groups no longer exists. Islamic-Christian fighting has ended.

When I said that war in Lebanon has ended I also said that its institutions, morals, and practices still remain. The problem is the complications of the war. But the war with Israel is still continuing and will never end so long as Israel occupies the southern territory and interferes in Lebanese affairs. [passage omitted]

[Madani] How will the new Lebanese president handle the Israeli-Syrian situation on Lebanese territory?

[Al-Huss] First of all, there is no equivalence between the Israeli occupations and the Syrian presence. The former is occupation, and in this respect we are against Israel and with Syria.

For many years Lebanon's ordeal has proved to us that Lebanon cannot be neutral toward or maintain the same distance with Syria and Israel. There is something called Arabism which must be expressed in the state's policy. [passage omitted]

Israeli Warplanes Stage 'Mock Raids' Over Sidon

NC0508070788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been staging mock raids over Sidon and its environs since 0900 today and are drawing antiaircraft fire. Our correspondent has reported that the planes are F-16's and Skyhawks.

'Raid' Area East of Sidon

NC0508091088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0906 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, Israeli warplanes raided the area east of Sidon at 1130 today. The raid coincided with an escalation of the situation on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats are cruising the southern shore from Al-Naqurah to Al-Zahrani.

Israeli Raids 'Mock'

NC0508095388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0950 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier as they flew over the capital this morning after having staged intensive reconnaissance sorties and mock raids over the Sidon area and its camps in the South.

'Extremists' Planning Attacks Against SLA

NC0408120788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Security sources in Sidon have revealed that the Nasirists, Palestinians, and extremist religious groups are planning to mount attacks against South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions located along the Kafr Falus combat lines and the Jazzin coast.

The aim of these operations is to divert attention from the state of tension prevailing among these armed groups in Sidon and the neighboring Palestinian camps.

According to the same sources, these groups have brought human and military reinforcements into Baysur, Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, Al-Shawaliq, and Wadi Kifrayya, where fortifications and bunkers have been set up. The

same security reports add that the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines will be the scene of confrontation between the SLA and the rejectionist armed groups.

It has been noticed that Hizballah, with the support of the Islamic resistance, has reinforced its posts in Al-Luwayzah and Kafr Rumman in a bid to launch attacks against the SLA in coordination with the Palestinians present in the area, particularly in the villages on the Jazzin coast.

As part of the preparations by the extremist groups, officials from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are training the members of these groups. It has been noticed that the Amal Movement has neither objected to these measures nor taken countermeasures against the aforesaid groups, since the latter are not present in Amal-controlled areas but in areas that run parallel to the security belt.

Rocket Hits Syrian Post in West Beirut; Wounds 6

NC0408204588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] A rocket hit a Syrian intelligence post situated between the Al-Barbir area and the Al-'Ijjih building in West Beirut, wounding four Syrian soldiers, one seriously, and two civilians, who were taken to the Al-Barbir hospital for treatment.

The Syrian forces cordoned off the scene of the blast, which was lit by floodlights, and prevented internal security personnel from entering the hospital. The Syrian forces also refused to reveal the identities of the wounded and did not allow a military expert onto the site of the explosion. A security source has expressed the belief that the shell may have been a 107-mm Grad rocket, which is usually launched from a fixed pad and scores direct hits.

9 February Group Claims Blast

NC0508061988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Excerpts] An explosion occurred near a roadblock manned by Syrian occupation forces at the Al-Barbir old bridge in West Beirut shortly after 2200 yesterday. According to security sources, the blast was caused by a Grad rocket fired at a Syrian intelligence position located between the roadblock and the Health Department building. [passage omitted]

In a telephone call to our radio, the Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February organization has claimed responsibility for the blast.

Murphy Arrives in Damascus, Meets Al-Shar'

JN0408184088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 aug 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Richard Murphy, U.S. asistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Rislan 'Allush, director of the America Department; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. Discussion revolved around the situation and developments in the region.

Murphy arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at the airport by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; the director of the America Department; the assistant director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Defense Minister Talas on Beirut Hostages

AU0408115088 Hamburg STERN in German 4 Aug 88 pp 130-131

[Interview with Defense Minister Mustafa Talas by STERN reporter Wilhelm Diet: "Siemens Company Paid DM18 Million"; in Damascus, date not given]

[Text] Dietl: Where are the hostages being held today?

Talas: You start the interview with a question about military secrets. The hostages are either in the Iranian Embassy in West Beirut or in the seaport of Sidon. We are examining this at the moment.

Dietl: Are they perhaps hidden in the Beirut Hayy Madi District, a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Organization?

Talas: In my opinion, the hostages have been taken away from Beirut.

Dietl: What prevents Syria from freeing the hostages as soon as their whereabouts are known?

Talas: Nothing. As soon as we know where they are being held there will also be a way of freeing them.

Dietl: Shortly before the decisive ballot involving Francois Mitterrand and his challenger Jacques Chirac in May, the last three French hostages in Lebanon were released. Could the U.S. hostages in Beirut also return to their homeland before a new U.S. president is elected?

Talas: If the Americans pay ransom to Hizballah, their fellow countrymen will be freed. You Germans know best how such things are done. When the company Siemens paid Hizballah, their technician Alfred Schmidt was released.

Dietl: What was the ransom?

Talas: DM18 million.

Dietl: Siemens still denies having paid even 1 mark. The media speculated that the sum was DM5 million.

Talas: I keep to my opinion: The ransom for Alfred Schmidt amounted to DM18 million. Maybe Hizballah got DM5 million in cash and the rest in kind.

Dietl: Where did you get your information on the ransom in the Schmidt case?

Talas: Hizballah used a wealthy preacher who lives in Nigeria as a mediator.

Dietl: Why did Hizballah release Alfred Schmidt on 7 September 1987, but not his fellow sufferer Rudolf Cordes?

Talas: Siemens had paid ransom for Schmidt. The Cordes case was different. There was a bona fide agreement.

Dietl: And what was its content?

Talas: It was planned to set Cordes free in Beirut 1 week after the release of the Lebanese Muhammad Hamadah who has been imprisoned in the FRG since January 1987. But the German side did not adhere to the exchange.

Dietl: Who consented on behalf of the FRG to this arrangement?

Talas: A personality from the FRG.

Dietl: Can you give his name?

Talas: No comment.

Dietl: Did Washington urge Bonn not to negotiate with the terrorists? And did U.S. intervention thwart Cordes' release?

Talas: Yes, just so.

Dietl: What happened exactly at that time?

Talas: Unfortunately I cannot give you any details. But believe me, I received my information from German friends.

Dietl: Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Christian Social Union Chairman Franz Josef Strauss are also among your friends. Did they both strive to achieve the release of the German hostages?

Talas: Many intervened. First of all Chancellor Helmut Kohl, then Strauss, then Genscher.

Dietl: Is there a difference for Syria between the Schmidt case and the abduction of Ralph Schray? He was kidnapped right in the Syrian zone of influence in West Beirut on 27 January 1988.

Talas: Of course. For this reason we put strong pressure on Hizballah and finally forced them to release Schray.

Dietl: What is the attitude of Damascus toward the pro-Iranian Hizballah Organization?

Talas: We made it clear to them: If it survives and wants to have peace with us, Hizballah has to renounce any violence. With one exception: Their weapons are to be aimed only at the Zionist enemy. Only in this case do we cover Hizballah's actions. Our friendship with Iran does not permit any of Iran's partisans to create havoc in Lebanon. Syrian President al-Asad is in charge there—and not Hizballah or PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. We Syrians and Lebanese are one people.

Dietl: Who heads Hizballah?

Talas: The real boss is Mohtashemi, the Iranian interior minister. The 12 Politburo members are directly responsible to him. Eight of them are Iranians. That is why Hizballah is directed by Tehran. Shaykh Fadlallah remains Hizballah's spiritual leader and political figurehead in Lebanon, although he occasionally dissociates himself from the group to a certain extent.

Dietl: Have the Iranians ever demanded weapons from the FRG in exchange for the hostages?

Talas: You should ask the German authorities this. At any rate, I did not participate in any such deal.

Talas Says Statement 'Distorted'

JN0508125288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has stressed that his statement to the magazine STERN on foreign hostages in Lebanon was distorted and far from the actual statement and its true meaning.

The Iranian Embassy in Beirut and Hizballah had earlier issued statements expressing surprise at the statement attributed to the Syrian defense minister. STERN cited Gen Talas as saying the Western foreigners in Lebanon are held by Hizballah in either Sidon or the Iranian Embassy building in Beirut.

Talas Addresses Military Graduates 3 Aug

JN0408082488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, the graduation of a new class of students from the Al-Asad Military Engineering Academy, the class of martyr Captain Muhammad ibn Yusuf 'Ashur, was celebrated yesterday.

Deputizing for the president in sponsoring the ceremony was General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. [passage omitted]

In his speech to the graduates, Gen Talas discussed developments in the region. He also discussed Syria's role under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad—a role which is being played through a sincere militant policy as well as a comprehensive view of the course of events regarding the conspiracy being concocted by imperialist-Zionist circles and those who follow them, such as Mubarak, 'Arafat, and Saddam.

The general asserted these plotters failed to recall that Syria is difficult to tame and that their conspiracies will be doomed to failure. This is because victory is for militant peoples, which is the logic of history.

Gen Talas explained events of the Iraq-Iran war. He said: You are well aware of the dirty game of Saddam, the butcher of Iraq, who initiated his unjust war against the Iranian revolution. You are also aware of the Syrian good offices designed to end this crazy war and prevent its expansion because it is a U.S.-Zionist war being waged by hired tools to dissipate the Arab nation's resources and scatter its capabilities apart from their natural position.

Gen Talas added: Saddam Husayn has escalated the war against Iran despite its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Saddam has also urged direct negotiations similar to the Israeli demand as a pressure card on Arabs designed to impose the fait accompli and market the U.S. Administration's capitulationist schemes.

The general warned against the suspect moves made by envoys of the imperialist circles, because they aim to encircle and abort the Palestinian uprising and terminate the Palestine question in the interest of Israel. Such moves also aim to effect expansion and building of settlements at the expense of both the Palestinian Arab people and their right to self-determination.

Also addressing the graduates, Gen Talas said: The knowledge, sciences, and advanced technical experience you have learned are a solid basis on which you will rely in performing your tasks in the combat formations. They are your nourishment in the training fields and on the battlefronts. You need this knowledge and experience as part of the endeavors to realize strategic parity with the Zionist enemy.

Concluding his speech, the general and representative of the commander in chief announced the approval by the General Command of the Army and Armed Forces of naming the graduation class after the martyr Captain Muhammad ibn Yusuf 'Ashur in appreciation of martyrdom and martyrs, the most honorable and noblest among mankind.

The general then thanked the college [as heard] administration, trainers, and teachers. He vowed, in the name of our Armed Forces, to President Hafiz al-Asad, builder of modern Syria, to continue the victorious militant march until our nation's goals of unity, freedom, and socialism are realized. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

USSR's Shevardnadze Arrives on Working Visit

LD0408163788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, arrived in Kabul this afternoon on a working visit. 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and other officials welcomed Eduard Shevardnadze at Kabul International Airport. Among those welcoming him was N.G. Yegorychev, USSR ambassador and representative extraordinary to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Eduard Shevardnadze is accompanied by V. Kamentsev, chairman of the USSR State Foreign Economic Commission and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Najibullah Speaks to Transportation Workers

LD0408213488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Speech by President Najibullah during visit to AFSOTR, the Afghan-Soviet Joint Transportation Enterprise, on 4 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear Afghan and Soviet friends, toilers of the AFSOTR joint enterprise. With enormous interest I have acquainted myself with the work of your firm, together with a delegation of friends and comrades.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you about the present situation in Afghanistan and problems of development of the national economy and its infrastructure, such as vehicle transportation, the hard work of the drivers, repairmen, and workers of the mobile services. Our beautiful country of Afghanistan is a proud country. [passage omitted]

Thirty years ago no one in our country even though of a great [word indistinct] of vehicle transportation, establishments for vehicle repair, and roads and tunnels in mountainous regions. The new section of the national economy couldn't have developed without the assistance and support of friends. This assistance was completely natural, just like the traditional efforts of the two neighboring countries toward mutually beneficial cooperation and toward the development of all-round contacts in all economic areas.

The friendship with the Soviet Union which began during the years of heroic struggle of the Afghan people for independence, has been transformed into a foundation of firm economic ties. The main role in implementation of these economic ties belongs to vehicle transportation in Afghanistan. The need to complete transportation ties resulted in the decision in 1976 by the governments of the two countries to form AFSOTR, the Afghan-Soviet Joint Transportation Enterprise.

Therefore, the foundation was laid for AFSOTR, this greatest transportation firm in the country, which is equipped with powerful equipment and is one of the best firms in the country from the viewpoint of organizing transportation, and technical and repair work.

Afghan-Soviet friendship for you AFSOTR workers is not a slogan, not an invitation, but a main condition for useful productive work and a fact of daily life. This friendship is your bread and is your home. We invite you, as true Afghans, to keep this valuable inheritance of our fathers. We will never allow anti-Sovietism and an anti-Soviet spirit in our country. [applause]

The national and democratic revolution in our country was faced immediately with a counterrevolution which was supported by regional reactionary and imperialist forces. Those who wanted to see Afghanistan as a backward state, captive, without independence, and without territorial integrity, decided to warm their dirty hands on the fire of the undeclared war. Those who couldn't bear to see Afghan-Soviet friendship wanted to benefit from sorrow, sadness, fratricide, and bloodshed. They wanted and still want us to return from the time of the car to the period of the camel; they want us to deviate from the straight road to the uneven roads of backwardness.

Destruction, terror, shellings—this is the favorite technique of the wild, and at the same time, timid enemy. The line of struggle for the Republic has been drawn along the country's valleys.

However, dear friends, it is a fact; the bandits and extremists who are armed with money from the Western countries and regional reactionary regimes have directed their attacks from the very first months of the undeclared war along the roads, the artery of our national economy. The enemy, by cutting the flow of transportation, wanted to stop the transportation of foodstuffs and primary goods to the people, raw materials for the factories and firms, arms and ammunition to the Armed Forces, medicine for the patients and injured.

The enemy tries to attack the convoys carrying national economic and commercial goods. The explosion of mines, the sound of gunfire, and mountain ambushes continues, as a result of which the blood of our dear drivers is being shed. [passage omitted]

The development of the AFSOTR production level is worthy of praise. AFSOTR has transported more than 370,000 tonnes of goods using its transportation vehicles. This figure constitutes 30 percent of the volume of foreign trade transportation. [passage omitted]

The firm is making a profit and last year the profit reached 341 million afghanis. The profit would have been greater if it hadn't been for the problem of travel security, which made it difficult to develop vehicle transportation and work conditions. We know that during the last 6 years the firm has lost 600 vehicles, which were being used to ensure transportation facilities for a big city.

In 1987, as a result of extremist attacks, the AFSOTR suffered a loss of 168 million afghanis. This sum of money would have been enough to build a big residential block for the workers. During the last 2 weeks, 12 vehicles, including a 27-tonne Super MAZ, which was imported from the Soviet Union some time ago, were stolen and destroyed. The extremists martyred two of your drivers in the region of Qal'eh-ye Morad Beg. [passage omitted]

I have accurate information about the present situation on the country's highways. I have directed the leadership of our Armed Forces to give serious attention to adopting measures to improve the situation on these highways. I assure you that much work will be carried out for your safety on the roads. And will be carried out soon. Necessary instructions have been given to the units and companies of the Army, Sarandoy, and state security bodies. The creation of a center to mobilize the Armed Forces in order to ensure security on the country's highways has been (?considered). [passage omitted]

Everyone knows about our gains along the path of reconciliation. The new Constitution, elections to the Milli Shura, the creation of a coalition government, tens of thousands of opposition [word indistinct] who ended their armed struggle, 150,000 emigrants who returned to the country—these are some of our gains in the field of implementing national reconciliation. Our most important gain is the Geneva accords and their consistant and unwavering implementation by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. If anyone judges, he will find no lack of noble effort or honest endeavor. The world's progressive opinion believes that fact.

Unfortunately, sincerity and frankness, loyalty to pledges, and love for peace for a number of political personalities who pursue their sinister and selfish aims have found the alien meaning and phenomenon. [as heard] I mean, of course, the leaders of the Alliance of Seven, the ruling circles of Pakistan, and a number of U.S. Administration personalities. How else could any one explain the purposeful actions of Islamabad to hinder the Geneva accords, which are being carried out with Washington's silent agreement? Instead of embarking on reconstruction following the war, peaceful reconstruction, with the development of national reconciliation, we are forced to concentrate our efforts once again toward the defense of the homeland.

I assure you that much work has been carried out in this field, and continues. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan—after the return of our brothers, the Soviet internationalist military men, to their country—will be able to give a crushing blow to the enemies of peace, compromise, and unity, and will be able to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. This is not only a word.

You know about the epics of the defenders of Qalat, Jalalabad, Ghazni, and other provinces. Our heroic Armed Forces haven't retreated anywhere, and will not retreat. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan pays serious attention to the consolidation of the Armed Forces, to the draft and conscription, to ensuring the security of the cities, villages, and roads.

Our bastion in this extremely important work is the freedom-loving and patriotism of Afghans, and the serious decisiveness of the people to defend the cause of peace. The AFSOTR collective plays its part in the defense of the homeland and revolution. [passage omitted] Today, AFSOTR employees and workers are ready to take charge of protecting establishments, and to release the Sarandoy forces from this duty. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, allow me to wish you prosperity, health, and success in your difficult work for the sake of the defense of the homeland and the noble cause of national reconciliation. I look at your faces; I see your honest and hard-working hands; I know that at this very moment hundreds of vehicles move along the country's roads. When vehicles move along the roads it means that Afghanistan is alive. When vehicles move along the roads it means that we move toward the future. When vehicles move along the roads it means that the cause of peace and progress will become victorious as a result of your efforts and your hard work. Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Spokesman Criticizes Ziaul Haq's Interference

LD0408180988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In connection with the utterances made recently by General Ziaul Haq to the editors of Pakistani dailies, a Foreign Ministry spokesman stated the following:

During his meeting with Pakistani reporters, Gen Ziaul Haq, in open violation of the Geneva accords and all accepted international norms, granted himself the right to draw judgment about the future government of Afghanistan and to state that the legal government of Afghanistan ought to fall after the return of Soviet forces. During the meeting, Gen Ziaul Haq invited the editors of Pakistani dailies to intensify their propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan. He also promised to continue his hostile policy against the Republic of Afghanistan.

These utterances by Ziaul Haq are nothing more than open interference in the internal affairs of our country and an effort toward continuing the war in Afghanistan.

Ziaul Haq is ignoring his pledges with regard to signing the Geneva accords. He is irresponsibly endangering suitable conditions for the maintenance of a lasting peace in the region.

The provocations by Ziaul Haq confirm, on the one hand, the part played by Pakistan in the undeclared war by executing the decisions of the [word indistinct] countries during this period of almost 10 years; and on the other hand, it is indicative of his deep hatred of our people and his futile dreams of merging Afghanistan with Pakistan.

Our people with their long history and brave struggles, which they have carried out in the course of this proud history, have proven that they will never allow any country to make a decision on the future of their country.

Offensive Against Mujahidin Around Kabul Fails
BK0308161988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan indicate the bogging down of the Najibullah regime offensive against mujahidin strongholds around Kabul. The offensive was launched on Friday last to relieve increasing pressure of mujahidin on the Afghan capital, but it seems to have failed to achieve its objectives.

Mujahidin are also reported to be increasing military pressure on the nearby provincial capital of Gardeyz.

Bomb Blast Kills 4 in Kabul Market
LD0408165288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The BIA military section reports that at 0800 this morning an extremist belonging to the Gulbuddin band took a quantity of explosive substances to the center of Sharar market, where thousands of our citizens go shopping every day. The explosives detonated while being planted, killing the extremist.

The report adds that as a result of this action by the notorious extremists, three of our compatriots, namely, a shopkeeper son of Shah Dawla; shopkeeper Abdol Ghafur, son of Malek; and another unidentified person, were killed and 18 people, including women and children, were injured. The wounded were dispatched by security forces to the hospital. Nine of them were released after treatment.

19 Surface-to-Surface Missiles Captured in Kabul
LD0408162088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The military section of the BIA reports that 19 surface-to-surface missiles which had been sited in the Paghman District for launching by the warmongering extremist elements at residential areas in Kabul were discovered and neutralized. The report adds that as a result of the mopping-up operation in Paghman District yesterday, eight warmongerers were crushed and three of their hideouts were eliminated.

Also as a result of this operation 1 rocket launcher unit, 1 recoilless gun, and 1 communication unit were destroyed, and 63 mortar shells and 7 rocket launchers were seized.

Mujahidin Attack Military Convoy in Nangarhar
BK0508062988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin attacked a Kabul regime military convoy in the (Khema) District of Nangarhar, causing heavy casualties. The mujahidin also attacked Kabul regime military posts around the Qarah Bagh District of Kabul, killing seven soldiers and capturing a post.

In the Alingar District of Laghman Province, the mujahidin killed several troops, including two officers. A mujahidin commander also lost his life in the fighting there.

India

Gandhi Accuses LTTE of Retracting Promises
BK0408124888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that India is tired of trying to bring the LTTE to the negotiating table since they keep going back on promises. He was talking to newsmen at Madras Airport after his arrival from New Delhi on a 3-day visit to Tamil Nadu. Mr Gandhi said the LTTE had gone back on its words several times. He pointed out that the LTTE had retracted even on the points agreed to at the talks with its representative Kittu at Madras.

Soon after his arrival, the prime minister left by helicopter to (Jinji) in South Arcot District.

Gandhi Rules Out Leniency to Terrorist Supporters
BK0408162488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister told the opposition in the Lok Sabha today that the current situation in Punjab does not justify showing any leniency to the extollers of terrorism. He said any action helping secessionist forces has to be be avoided. Mr Gandhi was replying to a letter written to him by Mr B.S. Ramuwalia, Akali Dal-B, and signed by 25 other opposition MP's [members of Parliament]. They had requested him to advise the Punjab government to withdraw the sedition case against the Punjabi daily AJIT. The correspondence on this was tabled in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr Gandhi said in Punjab people of all communities—Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims alike—are waging a courageous battle against terrorists. Mr Gandhi felt that any support or sympathy for those who publicize the cause of terrorists would only strengthen their hands. He said these are considerations that the Punjab government cannot ignore.

The House witnessed noisy scenes during the zero hour today as several Congress-I members sought to raise the issue. Some of them were seen waving copies of the letter in the House. Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, had demanded in the house yesterday that the correspondence be laid on the table of the House.

'Terrorists' Kill 7 Persons in Faridkot Area

BK0408031288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down seven persons, including three members of a family, in two separate incidents last night. Three others were injured. In the first incident, three terrorists attacked the house of sarpanch [village headman] Balkar Singh in village Nike in Faridkot District and killed him and his two sons. In the other attack, four persons were killed when two terrorists armed with Chinese assault rifles opened indiscriminate fire at Ghati Bazaar in Patti town of Amritsar District. Three persons were injured.

Five more highly decomposed bodies have been recovered from the debris in the Golden Temple complex, Amritsar. Three bodies were of men and two women. They bore torture marks. With these, the number of such bodies recovered from the debris has gone up to 41. Only four were identified.

Meanwhile, cash awards were given to many residents of village Pakoke, Bhelsingh, and Karimpura in Tarn Taran Subdivision of Amritsar District where the villagers killed seven terrorists in the past 1 week.

Rao Meets With Iraqi, Iranian Foreign Ministers

BK0508065188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] India has urged Iran and Iraq to agree to a peaceful settlement of the 8-year-old Gulf war. The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, had separate meetings with Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers in this regard at New York last night.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Mr Tariq 'Aziz is reported to have explained to Mr Rao the reasons for Baghdad insisting on direct talks with Iran before a cease-fire. Iraq wants to ensure that there is a comprehensive settlement and the cease-fire does not contribute to resuming of hostilities later.

During his meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Mr Narasimha Rao emphasized the need for a truce and hoped that the two countries will agree to a peaceful settlement.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0508124888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The issues raised in the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran by the head of the Supreme Judicial Council is the subject of our next news report.

At the start of the Friday prayers sermons, the head of the Supreme Judicial Council expressed his congratulations and greetings on the occasion of the blessed 'Eid-e Ghadir to the Muslims of the world, described the characteristics of this great feast of the Muslims, and expressed appreciation to the revolutionary people of Iran for participating so extensively in the march renewing allegiance to the imam of the ummah, which was proposed by the deputy leader. He added: This great march again created great despair among the enemies of the revolution, brought joy to our friends, and proved that the Islamic Revolution, with the passage of time and with all the pressures it endures, has not been harmed in the slightest.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili then expressed congratulations and condolences to all the Muslims of the world, particularly to the people of Pakistan, on the regrettable martyrdom of the scholar Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, the leader of Pakistan's Shi'as, at the hands of the mercenaries of arrogance.

The head of the Supreme Judicial Council then described the effects of the acceptance of UN Resolution No 598 by the Islamic Republic and the negotiations being conducted in this connection. He said: Iran has accepted this resolution with utmost sincerity. If these negotiations result in peace and Saddam's mischiefs are terminated, then our war with Iraq will end. However, our revolution has not ended. The head of the Supreme Judicial Council emphasized: Our nation must tighten its belt in order to achieve self-sufficiency, eliminate dependence on others, and show initiative and selflessness in revitalizing the country's economy.

Continuing his sermons, the head of the Supreme Judicial Council expressed appreciation to the inhabitants of Ilam and Gilan-e Gharb, the tribes of the western part of the country, and all those who stood steadfast in the face of the recent mischiefs committed by Saddam's regime and drove the enemy from their territory. He called them a heroic, responsible, and committed people.

In recounting the effects and blessings of the acceptance of the UN Resolution No 598, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili then said: The acceptance of the resolution has had

several positive effects for us, particularly in the area of foreign relations because, during these past few years, as a consequence of the propaganda of global arrogance, no matter how often we said Saddam is an aggressor, a criminal, and is the source of tension, no one believed us. However, with the acceptance of the resolution by Iran and the latest incitements on the part of Iraq, the righteousness of this statement has been proven to the world. With this move, we gained worldwide support. The latest aggression committed by Iraq also demonstrated that the Iranian nation still has the power to fight and can put the aggressor enemy in his place and drive him from our territory.

The head of the Supreme Judicial Council added: One of the other blessings ascribed to the acceptance of the resolution provided a solution for our internal problems because internally and externally, we had problems with Saddam, with the hypocrites, and with arrogance, but with the acceptance of the resolution all these problems have been explained and resolved. [sentence as heard] Regarding the issue of the hypocrites, their cooperation with a criminal such as Saddam against their own nation showed the dimension of their crime.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: Our nation is at present active in the international arena, just as it was in the early days of the revolution, but with more vigilance and experience. All these blessings are the outcome of his eminence the imam of the ummah's instruction that the resolution be accepted.

Montazeri Sends Condolences on Pakistani Cleric

LD0508125088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 88

["Text" of the 5 August message of condolence sent by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to the Muslim scholars and members of the clergy of Pakistan on the death of Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, a member of the Pakistani clergy—read by announcer]

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your eminences the hojaj-e eslam [plural of hojjat ol-eslam] and the learned clergy of Pakistan, may your blessings continue. The news regarding the martyrdom of the pious and committeed 'alim [singular of ulema, a religious scholar] and combative clergyman, his eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, purified be his remains, has caused me great sorrow and grief. There is no doubt that the true instigator of these crimes is world arrogance and world blasphemy who are frightened of the growth of Islamic movement in that region by committed and revolutionary figures such as the martyr Arif Hussain al-Hussaini. They imagine that by assassinating the torch-bearers of the Islamic movement they can weaken the Islamic movement and the uprising of the Muslim Pakistani people.

On the martyrdom of this combative 'alim and the esteemed representative of the great leader of the revolution [possibly indicating he was Khomeyni's representative in Pakistan], I send my condolences and congratulations to his holiness the lord of the age, may God hasten his glad advent, and the imam of the ummah, long may his shadow continue, and to the great Pakistani nation, the learned ulema, esteemed scholars, and committed seminarians of that country, as well as to the relatives and members of the family of that dear matryr.

In the critical situations that have befallen Islam and the Muslims, when the enemies of Islam are frightened of the spread of the Islamic movement, I expect the committed ulema and scholars of Pakistan to maintain their unity of expression, understanding, and self-sacrifice more than ever in order to achieve the sublime goals of the international Islamic movement. I also expect them to act in such a way that the conspiracies of the Eastern and Western mercenaries will be neutralized and the life-giving ideology of Islam will provide a strong shelter and asylum for those who yearn for justice, freedom, and independence so that committed Pakistani youths can receive the benefits of the blessings and intellectual and revolutionary ideas of their esteemed scholars and clergy members more than ever.

I beseech God Almighty for forgiveness and for the elevation of the rank of all the dear martyrs, particularly this illustrious martyr, as well as patience and reward for the esteemed family and relatives of that martyr, and for the greater success of the esteemed learned ulema and scholars of Pakistan in serving Islam and the Muslims. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, 5 August 1988

Iraq Withdraws Precondition for Direct Talks

LD0408172288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Iraqi regime has withdrawn its previous precondition for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 concerning direct talks with Iran.

Further on Iraqi Move

LD0408212188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The British Government radio, BBC, has announced that the Iraqi regime, which has so far insisted on direct talks with Iran as a condition for the implementation of UN Resolution 598, has now withdrawn its request. The radio report adds that the Iraqi foreign minister has raised new issues in this respect. Thus it has become clear that Iraq has withdrawn its earlier condition.

Commentary on Developments at UN

LD0408144288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "The Recent Developments in the UN" is the title of our first political commentary.

In the 2 weeks since negotiations began between the UN secretary general and the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, Perez de Cuellar has been constantly ready to set the date for a cease-fire and implement Resolution No 598. Following recent developments at the UN, Perez de Cuellar presented a plan to the Security Council whereby the two sides would conduct face-to-face negotiations after the UN announces a cease-fire.

Since the UN secretary general's negotiations with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq began, two schools of thought have existed in connection with implementation of Resolution 598. The Islamic Republic position has been to fully and sincerely cooperate with the secretary general in implementing Resolution No 598 as quickly as possible, and also the secretary general's plan. On the contrary the Iraqi regime, while carrying out extensive military attacks, has been obstructing and sabotaging the ongoing diplomacy. The spokesmen of the Iraqi regime in Baghdad and at the UN have announced direct negotiations with Iranian officials as a precondition to their consenting to a ceaese-fire.

Concerning the provisions of Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's implementation plan, international observers consider the Iraqi imposition of such preconditions as obstacles to the implementation of Resolution No 598.

Regarding the positions imposed by the Iraqi regime since the negotiations began, Iranian officials have always declared that they have no objection, in principal, to direct negotiations. Moreover, they state that in reality such negotiations are not considered a problem in implementing the resolution. Iranian representatives at the UN have declared that the Iranian opposition [as heard] emanates from disagreement over the time of the negotiations and over the problem of who should decide this. Direct negotiations, as a precondition imposed by the Iraqi regime, are rejected by Iran, particularly as Iraq demands that this take place before a cease-fire. However, after the cease-fire, if Perez de Cuellar, as mediator, considers direct negotiations a necessary step in implementing the different stages of the resolution, the Islamic Republic will consent to this.

At present, in light of the Iraqi position, this regime's aggression against our Islamic homeland during the last 2 weeks, and the publication of a UN report on Iraq's use of chemical weapons, the question is: What kind of reaction will international forums have regarding the Iraqi positiom in order to guarantee peace and punish the aggressor.

Khomeyni Writes Note to Bakhtaran Air Unit

LD0508083288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] A handwritten note from Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, expressing his appreciation of the brave commanders and pilots of the Bakhtaran Airborne division [havaniruz] who acted with great courage and heroism in the great and proud (?Marsad) operations was handed to the division at a special ceremony.

Further Reportage on Visit of Italian Minister

Meets With Musavi

LD0408171588 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 4, IRNA—Today the world is witness to Iraqi regime's scheming to sabotage enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 through its continued crimes such as chemical attacks on Iranian villages, bombing non-military centers as well as political ploys, said Premier Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday.

In a meeting with the visiting Italian Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero, Musavi also declared that the government and people of Iran, aware of the Iraqi regime's mischiefs, "have kept and will keep their mighty presence in the war fronts."

The Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on July 18, which calls for cease-fire in the Iraqi-imposed war.

Foreign fleets should immediately leave the Persian Gulf so that peace and harmony would prevail in the region, Musavi said.

In response Ruggiero, who leads a 50-man economic delegation, said Italy will endeavour for implementation of Resolution 598.

The Italian minister expressed hope that Tehran-Rome relations would further strengthen and announced his country's readiness to cooperate in post-war reconstruction. His suggestion was welcomed by the prime minister.

The Italian delegation arrived here Tuesday to participate in the Iran-Italy joint economic commission.

Trade Protocol Signed

LD0508000188 Rome International Service in Italian 2200 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The work of the Italian-Iranian joint economic commission ended today in the Iranian capital. After a lengthy final talk between Foreign Trade Minister Ruggiero and Ayatollahi, the Iranian mines and metals minister, a protocol to develop bilateral trade relations was signed.

On the other hand, despite lengthy negotiations, no agreement was reached on the credit granted by our country to build the port of Bandar-e 'Abbas. The Italian Reconstruction Institute said that the figure 1,350 billion [currency not specified] had been offered while, the Iranians only acknowledge 130 billion lire; that is, less than 10 percent. [sentence as heard] In order to (?find a way out) of the situation, Ruggiero proposed that by the end of August the Iranians submit a proposal on the payment of the debt and that the Italian side give its assessment of the situation by the end of September. He added that in the event of a failed agreement, there would be recourse to an international arbiter, the Paris International Chamber of Trade, which would reach a decision by October.

Concludes Visit, Departs 4 Aug

LD0408192888 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—The first Iran-Italy joint economic commission concluded here today with the two sides inking a letter of understanding for mutual cooperation.

Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero who represented Italy termed the talks "positive", and predicted "bright prospects" for Tehran-Rome bilateral cooperation.

Mines and Metal Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi who led the Iranian team to the talks also described the joint economic session as "good" and said the two sides reached general understanding.

Delegations from the two countries would follow up the details of talks in further meetings in the next two months, Ayatollahi added.

The Italian delegation left here Thursday at the end of its three-day visit.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Requests Iraqi CW Attacks

LD0408132488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The official in charge of intelligence in the western sector has told an IRNA correspondent: According to information obtained from documents left behind by the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in their latest joint operations within the framework of coordination of land operations and air cover between Saddam's army and the hypocrites' forces, one of the mercenary officials of the hypocrites' organization, who is the operational link with the Ba'thist army, alerted the Ba'thist commanders to the fact that because his forces could not reach Bakhtaran and occupy the Army base there due to the resistance of tribes and popular forces, it was vital that they bomb the Army Air Corps base to disrupt its task of providing air cover.

This document describes as effective the chemical attacks against the forces of Islam and particularly against the people. The commander of the Ba'thist army was requested to deploy chemical weapons sporadically so that the city could be evacuated.

The intelligence officer said: This document shows that 10 minutes after this contact was made the Air Force of the Zionist's army launched attacks. Repeated contacts and requests made of the Iraqi Air Force to bomb populated areas were noted.

An informed military source in the west of the country said: One of the hypocrites' commanders, accompanied by several of the members under his leadership, has surrendered to the Islamic fighters stationed in the western operational bases. This commander said: Following the joint defeats of the hypocrites and the Ba'thist forces, important differences have currently emerged within the joint command center of the hypocrites and the Ba'th Party inside Iraq. He said: As a result of these problems, a considerable number intend to go into hiding. Morover, a large number are faced with the problem of leaving Iraq and going to other countries.

Mojahedin Commander Surrenders, Details Tactics

LD0408171288 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—A commander of the terrorist "monafeqin" (Hypocrites) grouplet (MKO), along with several anti-revolutionaries under his command surrendered himself to Iran's Muslim combatants at one of the western operational bases.

An informed military official, announcing the above today, disclosed major disorders have been created in monafeqin ranks as well as joint MKO-Iraqi command centers, following their recent heavy defeats.

The official stressed that a large number of the deceived mercenaries are trying to leave Iraq because of the said issues.

Iraqi troops and the MKO outlaws sustained thousands of casualties in two days of battles on July 27 and 28 in the Eslamabad-e Gharb general operational region during the Muslim combatants' heroic "Marsadi (Ambuscade) operations.

Meanwhile, an intelligence authority in western fronts revealed that a terrorist leader, who normally acts as a go-between for the Baithist Army, had urged Iraqi commanders to bomb the Havaniruz (helicopter) base in Bakhtaran during the MKO's abortive bid to capture the western border city.

According to information obtained from seized MKO documents, he said the monafeqin appreciated Iraqi chemical attacks against Iranian forces and civilians as "effective tactics". The anti-revolutionaries had called on the Iraqi Army to alternately deploy chemicals, he added.

The MKO had also repeatedly called for Iraqi air raids on civilian areas in Iranian cities, he concluded.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Member Executed in Ilam
LD0408153788 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Ilam, Aug 4, IRNA—A leading member of the outlawed monafeqin's (Hypocrites) group (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq] was hanged in public here Wednesday. He was one of the main elements involved in MKO plannings and massacre of the innocent people of the western town of Eslamabad-e Gharb.

The MKO terrorists had ganged up with Iraqi troops to invade western parts of the country in what was the Iraqi regime's new aggression against the Islamic Republic following Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 (July 18).

People of Ilam, during the renewal of allegiance to Imam Khomeyni rally on Tuesday, had called on Iranian officials to execute the armed MKO anti-revolutionaries.

Gendarmerie Arrest 2 Afghans at Border
LD0408192988 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 4, IRNA—Two Afghan introducers were arrested Wednesday night by Iran's Gendarmerie border at Tappeh Seyf watchpost, Tayyebat region in this northeastern province. Initially ten Afghans had illegally entered Iran, out of whom two were arrested and the rest managed to flee back to Afghanistan. The arrested Afghans have been handed over to judicial authorities.

Official Denies Gunboat Attack on Norwegian Ship
LD0408162188 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—A military official in the General Command Headquarters today refuted reports that reports that Iranian gunboats had attacked a Norwegian tanker in the Persian Gulf.

The official said Iranian gunboats have never had and do not have such mission. Probably the attack, if it really took place, has been carried out by those who are against a stable peace in the region and are hampering implementation of U.N. Resolution 598, he added.

Kurds Claim Iraq Using Chemical Weapons
LD0508082788 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq in a statement issued Wednesday appealed to the United Nations to pressure the Iraqi regime to end its extensive use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish people.

It said in two Iraqi chemical attacks on Kurdish villages in Shaqlawa region, Irbil Province, on July 30 and 31, at least 11 civilians had been killed and hundreds of others wounded.

The statement said 22 Iraqi planes participated in the two raids and dropped bombs containing mustard gas on ten villages in Balisan [placename as received] valley in the Shaqlawa Region.

It regretted that while the United Nations and the international community are endeavouring to seek an end to the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598, the Iraqi Government is continuing the war against the Kurdish inhabitants in the liberated areas of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Encouraged by the international community's regrettable indifference, the Baghdad regime has continued its inhuman chemical warfare against Iranian troops and civilians as well as its own Kurdish people.

Hours after a United Nations team of experts published its latest report on deployment of chemical weapons Monday, the Iraqi regime which has no respect for international regulations, launched another extensive chemical attack on the Iranian Kurdish town of Oshnoviyeh in West Azarbayjan Province wounding over 1,700 villages, 100 of them critically.

Iran has called on the U.N. to despatch another team to the site of the

Rules for Processing Volunteers Announced
LD0408132988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The deputy commander of the General Command Headquarters in charge of manpower has announced ways of organizing and utilizing forces at the fronts. In a statement, the deputy commander thanked the people for their broad participation at the fronts. He also stressed the need to observe discipline and order in dispatching volunteer mobilization forces. He said: All volunteers should report to official centers prior to departure to the fronts. They must refrain from going there directly.

According to the same statement, volunteer forces must report to training garrisons, operational bases, specialized centers, mobilization corps resistance bodies, IRGC zones, or centers designed to absorb specialized forces all over the country.

The minimum tour of duty at the front must be 3 months. Volunteers for engineering units of the Construction Jihad must report to War Support Headquarters throughout the country. The clerics must report to the headquarters for the dispatch of missionaries in towns or provincial centers. [passage omitted]

The statement says: Since the strengthening of the country's armed forces has been accepted by the Islamic Republic's sacred regime as a designated priority task, all committed youth youth who believe that Iran's Islamic Revolution must be defended with arms—particularly the forces of the Malek Ashtar project—are dutybound to carry the banner of the brave commanders of Islam by enlisting in the armed forces. They must also fill the vacant places of the dear martyrs and increase the country's fighting ability.

Meanwhile, all the centers throughout the country designed to process volunteers must follow prepared plans in processing, dispatching, and setting up timetables for the dispatch of the volunteers. They must coordinate among themselves as necessary. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

3 Aug Air Patrols Noted

LD0408173688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, air patrols over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman were effectively carried out yesterday by aircraft of the Islamic Republic's Air Force. Ignoring a warning from a foreign warship, our aircraft identified and traced the activities and positions of 15 merchant ships, tankers, and foreign warships. In addition, the Islamic Republic's naval fleet carried out sea patrols in that area. Besides controlling the traffic of foreign vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, they identified and controlled the activities and movements of five Iraqi vessels in the vicinity of the Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah jetties and the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway.

More Iraqi Chemical Bombings

LD0408181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes chemically bombed villages west of Oshnoviyeh (W. Azarbayjan Province) at 03:00 hours local time Wednesday, injuring over 1,000 more villagers.

Early Tuesday also, Iraqi warplanes had dropped chemical bombs on eight locations in Sheykh Othman [placename as received] district in Oshnoviyeh, maiming 1,700 Kurdish civilians, 100 of whom, mostly women and children very seriously.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), tonight showed a film of victims of Iraq's Tuesday's chemical attack. The film showed women and children with blisters on their trunk, face and hands. It was a touching sight to hear the painful cries of a two-year-old girl with fairly large blisters on her body.

Iraqi aircraft also chemically bomnbarded the villages of Silvana and Zaazaan [placenames as received] in Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Province, near the Iran-Turkey border Tuesday.

Iraqi Plane Overflies Bushehr

LD0508104188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, at 1150 an aircraft of the Zionist Iraqi regime intruded into the airspace of Bushehr and broke the sound barrier over this city.

Air Force Bombs Chazabeh Sites

LD0508105488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] According to the General Command Headquarters, the pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force, flying their fighter-bombers in three separate missions at 0750, 0955, and 0957 this morning, heavily bombed troop concentrations, fortifications, and armored equipment and vehicles of the aggressor Iraqi regime in the operational sector facing Chazabeh, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Iraqi regime's forces. According to this report, after carrying out their missions, our pilots all returned safely to base.

Maldives

Government Schedules Presidential Election 23 Sep

BK0408142288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Colombo, Aug 4 (AFP)—The Maldivian Government Thursday announced that a presidential election would be held on September 23 to elect a head of state for the Indian Ocean atoll nation.

The Maldivian High Commission (embassy) here said the Citizens' Majlis (Parliament) would select one presidential candidate for the election, which is conducted by national referendum.

There is no party system in the Maldive Islands and people can either accept or reject the candidate selected by the Majlis.

Maldivian watchers here widely expect President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to be selected for a third five-year term of office.

Mr. Gayoom was first elected in 1978 and was returned for a second time in 1983.